Dudley
CHRONICLE
Thursday, April 27, 2017 | Read by more than 62,000 people | Price when sold 70p

Go-karts wrecked as damage bill runs into thousands

VANDALS STRIKE AT PLAYGROUND

By Tom Oakley

VANDALS broke into an adventure playground in Dudley and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Staff at the Sycamore Adventure youth centre returned to work on Monday morning to find an outdoor storage cupboard had been broken into and all 15 of its go-karts left strewn all over the site.

One – which was one of four bought by the Dudley Council-owned centre following a grant from Comic Relief – has been damaged beyond repair, while several others have also been damaged.



One of the carts left damaged

The full impact of the break-in has not been assessed – but bosses at the centre, which is on the site of the former Sycamore Green Primary School, have already said they will be unable to afford to replace them.

Keith Rogers, play centre manager, said: "Somebody, or more likely a group of people, have jumped the fence, prised the doors open on an outside storage area and basically emptied it.

"There were 15 go-karts completely spread across the whole site. Several of them have been damaged. One of them is, I think, now completely unusable, and that is one of the more expensive ones.

"The frame on it has been bent completely, we suspect as a result of someone possibly jumping up and down on it. On a couple of the others it looks like the wheels have been kicked and the frames bashed about.

"Nothing has been taken and there seems to have been no intention to steal at all – it's just mindless vandalism. We are not in a position to be able to replace the damaged karts. They were extremely popular, they were used by kids of all ages, by schools during visits, by parties."

The centre has been open since 2010 offering free public play sessions for youngsters of all ages and backgrounds. It is used by schools for visits, private children's parties and for training and team building for adults.

Police are investigating the incident, which happened sometime over the weekend. Anyone with information is urged to call officers at West Midlands Police on 101.

A justgiving page has been set up. To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/crowd funding/nicole-bashford.

LINING UP FOR THE MISS BLACK COUNTRY FINAL



Competitors have already been put through sport, intellect, a quiz and modelling rounds before the final judging in Dudley on Sunday

THE judging for who will be the next Miss Black Country has got underway with the competitors being put through their paces ahead of this weekend's final.

The 14 finalists had to tackle the sports round as well as a Black Country quiz when they met in Dudley on Sunday.

Although some preliminary judging has taken place, the final stage of judging will be done this Sunday when a winner will also be crowned.

This past Sunday the group met at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill for the first stage of judging. They were met by Miss England regional director Rachael Barker before meeting the judges, including last year's Miss Wolverhampton Faye Campbell , Miss United Kingdom 1996 Rachael Butler and Miss Charity England 2016 Laura Morgan.

The Miss Black Country finalists were then put to the test in an the intellect round before tackling a quiz about the Black Country and taking part in a modelling round.

Finally, the entrants were taken over to Pure Gym in Brierley Hill to tackle the sport round. With the help of personal trainers the finalists were put through their paces with a variety of squats, lunges and crunches. Organiser Rachael Barker, said: "The ladies have all worked so hard, all raising money for Beauty With a Purpose, a charity helping disadvantaged children."

The 14 finalists are Aisha Shahreen, Bethany Davidson, Carla Turner, Ellie Raybould, Eve Mallen, Evie Azzopardi, Faith Broome, Hannah Mitchell, Imogen Grace Collins, Isobel Lines, Leonie Constance McIntosh, Natasha Preece, Sophie-Rose Dickinson and Victoria Green.

COMPENSATION

£350,000 in payouts for pothole damage

COMPENSATION payments of almost £350,000 have been paid out because of damage caused by potholes in the last four years – with one driver alone receiving more than £4,600, new figures from a Freedom of Information request have revealed.

Problem roads around the county include Enville Common Road in South Staffordshire and Keepers Lane in Codsall.

The single highest payout was after a collision with a pothole at the junction of Somerset Road and Kent Road in Stafford.

● Full story – Page 4

FOOTBALL

Glory as Glassboys make play-off final

STOURBRIDGE have booked their place in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-off final on Saturday after an extra-time winner saw them beat Workington 3-2.

The see-saw semi-final ended up all square when the visitors equalised three minutes into injury time.

But Jordan Archer sealed victory on 97 minutes when he rolled his marker before hammering the ball high into the roof of the net.

● Report – Back Page

CRIME

Theft of cable leads to delays on trains

THOUSANDS of commuters experienced delays on dozens of trains between Birmingham and Wolverhampton after cable was stolen.

British Transport Police officers were called by rail staff at 4.10am on Monday to reports of a cable theft at Coseley railway station, causing a problem with signalling. Passengers at Coseley, Tipton, Dudley Port and more experienced delays.

London Midland trains were running at a reduced speed due to the theft, causing knock-on delays. Officers are investigating and urge anyone with information to call 0800 40 50 40.

INSIDE

PM IN BATTLE CRY ON REGION



PAGE 5

COME AND EXPLORE OUR MASSIVE STORE
COME ALONG AND SEE OUR HUGE RANGE OF CARPETS AND FLOORING
N.D. WALTERS Carpets & Flooring
www.ndwalterscarpets.com
RUGS • VINYLS • KARNDEAN FLOORING • LAMINATE FLOORING • REAL WOOD FLOORING
KARNDEAN DESIGN SHOWROOM
LOTS OF REMNANTS TO CLEAR
HUGE DISCOUNTS ON AXMINSTER ROLL ENDS
88/90 Dudley Rd. Sedgley | Tel: 01902 883281
Luxurious, warm carpets and durable, practical hard floors for your home
We can uplift and remove old carpet and will move heavy furniture.
A FAMILY OWNED AND RUN BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

CONTENTS

LETTERS	7
AREA FOCUS	14
LIFESTYLE	20
THE TICKET	27
TV LISTINGS	30-32
PROPERTY	35
MOTORING	41
SPORT	47/48

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234
E-mail: emma.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Dudley CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com



Car parking concerns at busy station

PARKING problems at Coseley railway station are to get worse as it gets 'busier than ever', it has been claimed.

Residents and ward councillor Susan Ridney have raised concerns over the lack of spaces for vehicles at the station. .

Nearby Tipton rail station will more than double in size after expansion plans were given the green light last month – meaning 100 new spaces to ease congestion.

Following a survey, it was found that the station was full by 8.30am on most days.

However, Coseley train station, which is used regularly by commuters to get to Birmingham and beyond, is 'busier than ever', according to Councillor Ridney.

She said: "The train station has always been busy but it's getting busier than ever now.

"People are using trains more which I applaud, but I have a responsibility which means I need to listen to residents' concerns and they are about the lack of parking.

"Commuters are parking on streets, the car parks in Roseville for shoppers and on an old derelict pub because the two car parks are full."

The station currently has 97 spaces and five blue badge spaces .

However, the body responsible for the car park urged commuters to park 'responsibly' and encouraged people to get to the station by other means.

Mark Langford, Transport for West Midlands spokesman, said: "Park and ride is a very popular scheme and results in many car parks being full by 8am.

"Motorists have a big part to play in giving themselves enough time to get a space at their chosen station, and while we do not control what happens outside of our car parks, we strongly encourage anyone unable to get a space to park responsibly.

"They could ask themselves if they really need to drive to the station as users living less than a mile away could catch the bus, cycle or walk."

Thousands join castle's St George's celebrations



Robert Aston, from Coseley, dresses for the St George's Day celebration at Dudley Castle



Kevin Simpson and Lizzie Fotheringham



An archer lines up his shot during the event



It was great fun for children



Thousands of visitors queued down Castle Hill

THOUSANDS of people flocked to Dudley Zoo to help make this year's St George's celebrations a roaring success.

It was a sea of red and white as the Castle Hill attraction teamed up with Dudley Council to host the event in honour of England's patron saint on Sunday.

Visitors enjoyed the entertainment in the 11th century castle's courtyard which included medieval re-enactors, dragon puppets, stilt walkers, children's entertainer Dippy, history talks, ghost tours, face painting and crafts.

There were also extra talks and feeds at the penguin and sea lion enclosures for families to enjoy.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, said: "For the second-year running we have teamed up with Dudley Zoo, which has done a great job of making the celebrations for St George's Day really enjoyable."

Derek Grove, zoo director, added: "As a community-based zoo we welcome the opportunity to host our second St George's Day celebration within the grounds of Dudley Castle.

Visitors

"This year again proved hugely popular with over twice as many visitors coming specifically for the event and they were joined by our regular day visitors who stayed later to make the most of the festivities."

Elsewhere in the Black Country, a patriotic fervour spilled on to the streets of West Bromwich as thousands took part in a street parade believed to have been one of the biggest in the country.

It was led by the Royal British Legion from 9.45am at the Horse and Jockey pub, on Stoney Lane, before heading to Dartmouth Park.

The procession was followed by a short service in Dartmouth Park before an all-day family fete with fair rides, craft stalls, bouncy castles and historical re-enactments.

Ceremony of thanks after scheme wins major award

A VOLUNTARY counselling scheme that helps more than 100 children and young people a week has been honoured with a prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The What? Centre provides one-to-one therapeutic counselling and advice services for young people, working with more than 120 young people a week at its centre based in Stourbridge.

The award is the highest a voluntary group can receive in the UK and a lavish thank you ceremony was attended by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Viv Astling OBE at Himley Hall.

Julie Duffy, chief officer for 30 years at the centre, spoke of her pride at receiving the award.

She said: "More than 40 of our volunteers attended the event that have worked with us for a long time. It was really a moment to be proud of.

"Everyone said that they had been impacted from hearing the work that the centre does and mental health has really been in the spotlight lately."

The What? Centre is one of 193 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year.

The number of awards given to groups this year is slightly higher than last year, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to tackle community challenges.

Julie continued: "This award is for all of the volunteers who have counselled or supported young people at any time during these 30 years."

Free parking trial to get under way

A FREE parking trial in an effort to boost trade will get under way on Monday.

Shoppers visiting Dudley Council car parks in Sedgley, Dudley, Brierley Hill and Halesowen can enjoy up to two hours of free parking through to July 2.

People who want to take advantage of the trial will need to print and display a free parking ticket from the machines already in place.

Normal charges will be in place for people parking for longer than two hours and return is prohibited within three hours of leaving.

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The intention is to encourage people to visit the shopping areas across the borough. We're trying to work out if car parking attracts people into the towns."

Cricket scheme to encourage young

A NEW cricket programme is in place to encourage more youngsters aged five to eight to play the game.

The All Stars Cricket Scheme is available at Coseley Cricket Club on Mondays from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. For more information, visit allstarscricket.co.uk.











Scheme for waste site thrown out by council

Council chiefs have rejected plans for a 'waste transfer station' over fears it could pollute a nearby river and wildlife.

The application for Bromley Street, in Lye, would have seen the storage of skips, plant and shipping containers including a weighbridge.

A bunker would have been used for the storage of soil, hardcore and green waste alongside the existing main building being used as the drop off, transfer and sorting area.

It comes as letters of concern were received from neighbours fearing it would be unsafe and cause an increase in vermin. The plans were submitted two years ago.

The plans were refused because the site could potentially pollute the water of the nearby River Stour, a report published by Dudley Council said.

The report said: "The proposed use as a waste transfer station is considered to have the potential to cause harm to the adjoining water course due to the inherent nature of the operation."

Council planners noted that there were no plans outlined as to how surface drainage would be provided or controlled.

Phil Jones and Richard Huggins, who own A&PJ Steels, said in a letter: "We have experienced a substantial increase in vermin in the past two years."

They also claimed the road would not be able to cope with the increased traffic to the site.

UKIP leader will not enter MP race

THE leader of Dudley UKIP group Paul Brothwood has announced that he will not be standing as a candidate in the General Election.

It comes as Councillor Brothwood announced in recent weeks that he would no longer support Labour, which controls the local authority but does not have an overall majority.

He is now set for talks with the Conservative group, the second biggest party at the council house, about a change in leadership.

In a statement released yesterday, Councillor Brothwood said: "As UKIP group leader I have a duty to the 300,000 residents of the entire borough to ensure significant progress is made at the council. I have to set aside my own personal ambition."

Bananarama in Brum reunion gig

Bananarama are reuniting for the first time since 1988 and will play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on November 23.

Sara Dallin led the band which formed in 1979.

Former police chief facing case probe



Former chief constable Chris Sims

A FORMER West Midlands and Staffordshire Chief Constable is facing possible investigation over the handling of an historical child sex abuse case.

The complaint against Chris Sims centres on why a meeting between him and alleged victims of abuse at Tettenhall College in Wolverhampton never took place – despite a request by then-Home Secretary Theresa May.

The Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said it had received a complaint from alleged victims Andrew Wood and Mark Shelton. It is understood another police force is to be asked to look into the complaint, but the pair have also been offered a meeting with current Chief Constable Dave Thompson and a representative of Mr Jamieson's office.

Mr Wood, originally of Wombourne, and Mr Shelton, of Shifnal, were expecting a meeting with Mr Sims in early 2015 to discuss problems with their case. It followed an intervention by Mrs May in February of that year.

At the time, prosecutors were deliberating whether to bring charges against ex-Tettenhall College head Colin Cope after video footage emerged showing him driving , carrying a table and climbing stairs eight months after being too sick to stand trial. He was charged with 11 offences on boys at the Wolverhampton school. He denied any wrongdoing.

Mr Wood and Mr Shelton were among five ex-pupils paid a total of £129,000 in an out-of-court settlement in 2012 by the boarding school. The school did not admit liability. Cope died aged 84 in March 2015.

Mr Sims declined to comment.

Charity box conwoman spared prison by court

A CONWOMAN posed as a charity worker to trick people into handing over collection tins.

Claire Kierczek, of Dudley, was spared prison despite having a similar conviction on her record and being subject to a suspended prison sentence at the time.

She had denied two charges of fraud, but was found guilty by magistrates who committed her to Warwick Crown Court to be sentenced.

The 32-year-old, of Buffery Road was given a 12-month jail term suspended for two years.

She was ordered to take part in a drug rehabilitation programme, made subject to a curfew for six months, and fined £1 for breaching a suspended sentence imposed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last year.

Mr Nicholas Smith, prosecuting, said that in November Kierczek was at Asda in Jubilee Crescent, Coventry, posing as a representative of the Royal British Legion.

She showed staff a fake ID saying she was there to collect charity boxes. Kierczek took two boxes, one a British Legion box with an estimated £200 in it, and left empty ones.

Drug

CCTV recordings were later seized by police from which she was identified. But by then she had struck again, this time at the Coventry Trophy Centre in Burnaby Road, Coventry.

At the time Kierczek was subject to a 12-month community order imposed by Birmingham magistrates for a similar offence in November 2015 of posing as an employee to steal charity boxes. Then at Wolverhampton in March last year, for converting criminal property by selling a camera that had been stolen in a burglary, she had been given the two-month suspended sentence.

Recorder Christopher Donnellan QC said: "It is mean. It justifies custody. But if she has a drug problem and it is on-going, I am minded to follow the recommendation in the pre-sentence report. I am going to give her a chance to sort out the heroin problem."

Sentencing Kierczek and ordering her to pay £50 to the Air Ambulance and £75 to the British Legion, he told her: "People who give to charities in boxes in shops are often people giving small amounts because that is all they can afford to give. It is often those small amounts that make big differences to charities.

"This is your last chance, and I hope that you take it."

Take Walk on Wild Side for milestone



Zoo staff Sally Skinner, Sam Grove and Lucy Musgrove get ready to celebrate the zoo's 80th birthday

There's less than one month to go until Dudley Zoo turns 80, and they are reminding supporters to Take a Walk on the Wild Side for their critically-endangered Bornean orangutans.

Staff are turning back the clock on May 6 – the zoo's actual opening date back in 1937 – and encouraging visitors to join a 5km sponsored walk around the 40-acre site to raise money.

This will go towards their ambitious anniversary appeal to raise £800,000 for a new separate outdoor space for the zoo's much-loved great apes. Marketing manager, Andrea Hales, said: "Our anniversary is fast approaching and we're looking forward to marking DZG's past 80 years, celebrating our present and fundraising for our future projects.

"We're encouraging our supporters to join in the fun and dress in clothing from the zoo's opening era – the 1930s and 1940s – or in fancy dress and then join us for a party in the castle courtyard during the afternoon."

The walk starts at 11am and registration costs £6 per adult and £3 per child aged between three and 15, which includes zoo admission.

Everyone is encouraged to raise at least £50, with every penny put towards the new enclosure.

To register call 01384 215313.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goldie to shine at Civic Hall gig

Walsall-born Goldie will perform in Wolverhampton this year, it has been announced.

The star, aged 51, will play with the Heritage Orchestra at the Civic Hall on November 23. He will also perform at MADE Festival in Birmingham on July 29.

Speaking ahead of his Journey Man tour, Goldie – who spent much of his youth growing up in Wolverhampton – said: "This will be one of a kind, a culmination of everything past, present and future in my music, like it has never been heard before, live."

Alert about men asking for money

POLICE have issued a warning after reports of men knocking on doors asking for food and money.

Officers have sent out the alert after the men were reported calling in the Low Hill area of Wolverhampton.

The two men asked those who answered to give them food and money. The warning said: "Beware, bogus callers are operating in this area. Don't be their next victim." Those concerned are advised to "stop" before they answer the door, and think "am I expecting anybody" then "secure the bar or chain before opening the door."

Health staff are on award shortlist

Three staff members from a Black Country NHS trust have been shortlisted for a national award.

Sarah Clarke, Victoria Perry and Kate O'Connor from the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have been nominated in the educator-of-the-year category in the Student Nursing Times Awards.

Their award entry included testimonials about their work from students and colleagues. The winners will be announced in London.

Bidding now open in mayor charity auction

A BLACK Country mayor has launched a charity auction – with 38 items up for grabs.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Barry Findlay announced the start of the online auction yesterday. On offer in the auction is a weekend stay at a luxury spa hotel with an off-road Land Rover driving experience, donated by Jaguar Land Rover.

To bid, visit wolverhampton.gov.uk/mayoral and follow the link to the auction page.

Clean-up to shut street

PEDMORE Lane in Stourbridge will be closed from Gauden Road to the borough boundary to enable workers to carry out street cleaning. It will be shut on Sunday, May 7, from 6am through to 1pm. Access to frontages will be maintained where it is safe to do so.

CHOICE WINDOWS
WHY PAY MORE for YOUR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS?
We are a small family business established since 1990. With NO showrooms, salesmen or other costly overheads.
We can offer very competitive prices on
• uPVC replacement windows • Doors • Porches • Patio's and Conservatories
ONE WINDOW ORDERS WELCOME
• High Security Locking • Internal Glazing • No Deposit • 10 Year Guarantee
FENSA
CALL PHIL
01384 352535
07973 114553
www.choicewindowsdudley.co.uk

Family Run Est since 1978
Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds
SOFAS, VINYLS, LAMINATES, STAIRLIFTS
WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets FREE OF CHARGE
FREE DELIVERY DISPOSAL AND SET UP ON BEDS AND SUITES
DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door
Electric Chairs From £350
Electric Beds From £549
Heavy Domestic Saxonys from £6.99 sq yd was £14.99
Double Orthopaedic Divan Bed £245.00
Divan Beds Singles from £92 Double from £142
Bleach cleanable carpets from £3.99 sq yd
PLUS... UP TO 75% OFF many instore items! We will beat your BIG Superstores
www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Terms & conditions apply
Free quotes and Planning
Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00
FREEPHONE 0800 0853747
DUDLEY SEDGLEY GORNAL COSELEY WOMBOURNE HIMLEY KINGSWINFORD NETHERTON
COVERS ALL AREAS
OPEN SUNDAYS 10am-3pm
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541
WE ARE HERE

COUNTY NEWS

45pc increase in temp vacancies

DEMAND for temporary professionals in the West Midlands has risen by 45 per cent in the year to March, according to the Association of Professional Staffing Companies.

The data, provided by recruitment software company, Innovantage, revealed that in addition to a rise in temporary roles, permanent vacancies also experienced an increase, rising 18 per cent for the year.

Demand for professionals rose notably across sectors including IT and media, which recorded uplifts of 38 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

Charity steps up in bowel cancer fight

A POLL commissioned by Bowel Cancer UK's Step up for 30 fundraising challenge has revealed 64 per cent of adults living in the Midlands were not aware a lack of regular physical activity increased the risk of bowel cancer.

Research shows regularly taking part in 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity, such as cycling or fast walking every week, can decrease your risk by as much as 12 per cent.

A recent survey revealed more than 20 million people in the UK did not reach or exceed the minimum target. For more information, log on at www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/stepupfor30/

Jump for joy with inflatable course

THE world's longest, continuous inflatable obstacle course will visit Wolverhampton later this year. The course, which is more than 1,000 feet long, is on a UK tour will be at Wolverhampton Racecourse on June 30 to July 2.

They will host events where teams of five will compete against each other in a timed competition. Trophies will be awarded for the fastest three teams each week. Full details at thelabyrinthchallenge.com

House woes having an impact on health

MORE than one in four adults in the West Midlands suffer mental health issues due to housing problems.

The report from Shelter and ComRes shows 28 per cent have experienced problems including long-term stress, anxiety and depression due to a housing problem.

Anyone struggling with bad housing and homelessness in the West Midlands can contact Shelter Birmingham on 0344 5151800 or go to the website, www.england.shelter.org.uk

German market dates

DETAILS for the ever-popular German market in Birmingham, the biggest of its kind outside Germany and Austria, have been announced. This year's market, known as the Frankfurt Christmas Market, will start on November 16 and finishes earlier than last year, on Christmas Eve.

Nearly £350,000 paid out over damage

DRIVERS in Staffordshire have received nearly £350,000 in compensation in the past four years because of potholes – with new figures revealing the worst roads in the county.

Figures obtained in a Freedom of Information Act request show Staffordshire County Council shelled out a whopping £347,389.60 between 2012 and 2016 to drivers whose cars were damaged because of the pothole problem plaguing the county's roads.

The figures also reveal the problem roads around the county, including junction 11 of the M6, Enville Common Road in South Staffordshire, Keepers Lane in Codsall and Burnhill Green Road near Pattingham.

The single highest payout for a driver came in 2014 when one motorist received £4,621.65 after a collision with a pothole at the junction of Somerset Road and Kent Road in Stafford. Another mammoth payout came in 2015 when one driver received £3,574.98 in compensation after their car was badly damaged on Langley Road on the outskirts of Wolverhampton.

Cannock Chase councillor Gordon Alcott, who previously claimed there must be a pothole on every road in the district, said: "The one before for the Toll Road has got a series of craters, that is how bad they are. Then the island for junction 11 itself has potholes all the way around it. Motorists are having to try and weave their way around them, it is very dangerous."

In total 3,985 successful and unsuccessful compensation claims due to potholes were submitted to Staffordshire County Council between 2012 and 2016.

Potholes: Motorists are paying the price

TOP OF THE POTS

MOTORISTS are paying the price of the crumbling roads across the region our potholes campaign has uncovered with drivers contacting us to reveal damage being caused to their cars.

We have received a number of images of damaged tyres and alloys caused by vehicles hitting potholes as readers highlight some of the worst roads in Staffordshire and the Black Country.

And a Freedom of Information act request has shown how much is being paid out in compensation by Staffordshire County Council because of our pothole-ridden roads.

Councillor George Adamson, who represents the Hednesford and Rawnsley areas which have been highlighted as a concern by readers, has welcomed the Chronicles' campaign.

He said: "I welcome the Chronicles' Top of the Pots campaign. It highlights one of the major concerns of local people. Staffordshire has become the pothole capital of England.

Invest

"We need to invest in improving our roads and do it urgently. Staffordshire residents deserve nothing less. The pothole plague has to be dealt with, and sooner rather than later."

This week reader Sue Gulley has told us of damage caused to the wheel and tyre of her car after hitting a pothole in South Staffordshire.

She said: "The hole was full of water so we never saw it. The road is very bad, Hilton Lane.

"We were on our way to attend my Dad's 80th Birthday meal with family at Coven and due to the incident we had to cancel.

"My husband was filthy having to change the tyre at the side of the road and by time we had done this was not worth us going, an event which meant a lot to all of us and was ruined due the council not dealing with issues that have already been reported to them, the road is a disgrace.

"I pay my road tax, why should I then pay for a repair that was caused due to no fault of my own. I shall fight for my money back. "

Russell Withey suffered damage to his wheel when he hit a pothole near Gentleshaw Common in Staffordshire, as drivers turn off Chorley Road into Comonside Road. He is still waiting to hear if he will be compensated for the damage.



Raymond Drury is complaining about potholes in Romsley Road, Stourbridge



Russell Withey suffered damage to his wheel from a pothole near Gentleshaw Common



Sue Gulley measures the depth of the pothole which caused damage to the wheel and tyre of her car



Simon Hall of Great Wyrley sent in pictures of the terrible condition of the roads nearby

Simon Hall of Great Wyrley also sent in pictures of the terrible condition of the roads near his home.

Raymond Drury emailed us pictures of potholes in Romsley Road, Stourbridge. He said: "What is interesting is that the council have been repeatedly repairing holes here for over 20 years as there is some form of water leak underneath.

"A clue for the council 'cure the water leak first'."

Reader P Garrett flagged up problems on the A4601 in Cannock at the island which meets the A5 and added: "Both carriageways are covered in about 10 potholes and there's nowhere to drive around, you just have to let the car take a battering."

The Chronicle has been inundated with reports of huge potholes and badly damaged roads since launching our campaign a month ago. We want to identify the top 10 pothole blackspots in the region to flag up to our councils.

If you know of any pothole-ridden routes or deep holes email details, preferably with a picture, your name and any comments you would like to make to Sue.Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk or drop us a line at Editorial, The Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Backing for homes plan at the site of old baths

HOMES finally look set to be built on the former site of a swimming baths – seven years after controversially closing its doors.

Plans for 28 homes on the Coseley Baths site have been recommended for approval after being formally lodged with council bosses.

Years of uncertainty for people living nearby, who have demanded to know what will happen with the land, appear to be coming to an end.

A homes scheme stalled last year following opposition from residents but Public Sector PLC, a private company part owned by Dudley Council, has now come back with fresh proposals.

The 1.5-acre site on Pear Tree Lane has become overgrown since the baths were bulldozed in 2010 following an acrimonious campaign to try to save them.

Planning officers at Dudley Council have indicated they are ready to back the plans, with the final decision due to be made by councillors on May 2.

The development would feature a mix of two, three and four-bedroom homes with existing access to the baths site to be retained.

However, 13 objections to new plans have been raised by neighbours who feel there will be too many homes on the site and the development will bring more traffic to the area.

But a report from planning experts at Dudley Council said the development was considered acceptable and would have a 'positive impact on the character of the area'.

Fundraiser to keep going for 24 hours

A MEGA 24-hour badminton tournament is set to take place in Kingswinford in a bid to raise money for those affected by cancer.

The 'badmintonandon' event will take place from 5pm on May 12 at Kingswinford School until the same time the following day.

Paul Scrivens and his pals set up the event to raise funds for Macmillian Cancer Support and the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Mr Scrivens, aged 32, who has played badminton for 25 years, said: "My mum is currently recovering from cancer and I saw the first hand the fantastic work that the Georgina Unit do at the hospital with so little."

Entry costs £5 per person per hour they play. For more information visit www.facebook.com/badmintonandon

Diversion in place as road is closed

A road near Halesowen and Stourbridge will be closed on May 14.

Foxcote Lane will be closed from 6am until 1pm for a cleansing operation. A diversion will be in place on Wynall Lane South, Wynall Lane, Oldnall Road and vice-versa.

Advertisement

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing?
If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution… Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. **A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes**. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, **plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee**. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Dudley & the surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.



Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Are A... Which? Trusted Trader

All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.com

Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?

Step up to the bar and raise funds for hospice

A HOSPICE is organising a community event on the canal network, which will take supporters on a walking tour of scenic surroundings.

There are four walks available, which are all taking place on May 21 in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

The walks will coincide with the inspirational 125-mile walk being taken on the same weekend by a group of hospice supporters, who will be raising money for the charity for walking for 56 hours without sleep or rest.

All four walks will end at The Maverick at the bottom of Bretell Lane, Amblecote, and the pub will be welcoming walkers throughout the day, before a big end-of-walk celebration at 8pm, to welcome home the team walking the 125 miles.

The walks will be at staggered starts throughout the day, with a 24-mile walk from Bridgnorth starting at 8am, a 15-mile walk from Stourport Basin starting at 10am, a nine-mile walk from The Lock at Wolverley starting at 12pm and a 4.5-mile walk from The Vine at Kinver at 2pm.

There will be numerous checkpoints along the route, and the hospice is appealing for anyone who would like to volunteer their time to man those checkpoints on the day to email laura@mshfundraising.co.uk.

Laura Millard, community engagement officer, Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "We're privileged in this area to have a gorgeous canal network right on our doorstep."

Visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/charity-canal-walk.

Action call over speeding drivers

ROADS bosses have been urged to take action to stop speeding on a busy high street.

Councillors have said measures are needed to make drivers slow down on High Street, Quarry Bank.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill said he had received reports about motorists going too fast, including an elderly man whose legs were injured when his car door was shut onto them, and has requested talks with council highways officers.

He said: "We need traffic measures to stop speeding on Quarry Bank High Street. There was an elderly gentleman getting out of his car and the speed of the car coming down the High Street shut the door back onto his legs and injured his legs."

Change of date for cider festival

AN UPPER Gornal pub has switched the dates for its next cider festival from next month to the summer.

The event at The Jolly Crispin, Clarence Street, will now be held from June 30 to July 2.

Inspectors raise court cells concerns

COURT custody facilities across the West Midlands need to improve, according to prison bosses.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), led by chief inspector Peter Clarke, has raised 'significant concerns' with court cells and the way people are handled in courts in the region.

Among the concerns include the 'often unnecessary' use of handcuffs and detainees spending long periods in cells waiting on solicitors.

A report prepared by Mr Clarke after HMIP toured facilities across the region in December stated: "The application of handcuffs in the physically secure court custody facilities was often unnecessary.

"There was a listings protocol, and we saw a number of cases in which children and vulnerable detainees were prioritised. However, several factors contributed to too many detainees being held in court custody for unnecessarily long periods.

"These included: delays in the attendance of duty solicitors and court interpreters and detainees being brought from prison early in the morning to Crown courts, when their cases were not listed until the afternoon.

"Investment in many parts of the estate was required in order to address some of the unacceptable conditions we found for detainees."

Inspectors also found 'significant amounts' of graffiti on cell walls some of which was 'offensive'. However the courts were also praised for their 'good' working relationship with key agencies and their 'adequate' level of staffing.

Mr Clarke's report added: "Working relationships between the three key agencies responsible for delivering the court custody provision were good. It was positive that the key stakeholders, in particular HM Courts and Tribunals Service, accepted responsibility for the overall care and welfare of detainees. As with other recent inspections, the provision was hampered by ineffective delivery of the cleaning and maintenance contract, for which none of the involved agencies was directly responsible.

Speaking after his report released, Mr Clarke said the inspection had been 'reasonably positive'.

PM's battle cry during visit to Black Country

THE importance of the Black Country in the forthcoming General Election was highlighted this week with Theresa May heading to Dudley to campaign.

Only days after announcing the snap election the Prime Minister arrived at the heart of the Black Country which she described as a 'very important battleground'.

Her comments come as the Conservatives look to snatch seats away from Jeremy Corbyn's Labour in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton at the election on June 8.

The Tories have earmarked Walsall North, Dudley North and Wolverhampton South West as key targets.

Speaking at Netherton Conservative Club at the weekend, Mrs May said: "The Black Country is very important and is going to be a very important battleground for the next election.

"Every vote that is cast here is going to be important for the future of our country. It will be a vote for a stronger Britain in the future."

Taxes

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "This visit shows that she is determined to win not only in Dudley South but also others seats in the area.

"Dudley North, Walsall North, Wolverhampton South West – these are all seats Conservatives will be fighting extremely hard for."

Earlier the Prime Minister had been out campaigning around Alderdale Avenue in Sedgley.

The street is in Dudley North, which Labour MP Ian Austin fought hard to defend at the last election. In 2010 he had a majority of just 1.1 per cent.

Alderdale Avenue is also on the border of Wolverhampton South West, which has swung between the main parties in the past two elections. Labour had just a two per cent majority at the last general election and the Conservatives are hopeful of overturning that, especially after current MP Rob Marris announced last week he would not be seeking re-election.

During the visit the Prime Minister again refused to rule out the possibility raising taxes but insisted the Conservatives remain the party of 'lower taxes'.

The controversial prospect, believed to be the work of Chancellor Phillip Hammond, has seen the Tories face a setback in the polls.

Mr Hammond has hinted he would like to drop the promise of no tax rises because it restricts his options for dealing with Brexit.

Following the news, a Survation poll put the Conservatives on 40 per cent, followed by Labour on 29 per cent and the Lib Dems and Ukip on 11 per cent each. It means Mrs May's lead over Jeremy Corbyn nearly halved in four days – with some potential Tory voters also angry that she is refusing to step back from David Cameron's huge overseas aid commitment.



On the campaign trail – Prime Minister Theresa May gives a speech at Netherton Conservative Club

Speaking in Netherton, Mrs May was three times offered the chance by journalists to make it clear her party would not be raising taxes – something it pledged for the last General Election – but declined to give a straight answer.

She was first asked if, following news that Britain was no longer at the front of the queue for a trade deal with Donald Trump, there was a 'distinct possibility' taxes would be raised.

She replied: "Lets be very clear on the issue of taxation, people in this election are going to have a very clear choice.

"They will have a choice between a Conservative party which always has been, is, and will continue to be a party that believes in lower taxes and in keeping taxes down for ordinary working people.

"Or the other choice is the Labour party whose natural instinct is always to raise taxes."

When asked if she was 'not ruling out all forms of tax rises', Mrs May replied: "When people come to vote they will have a choice between two parties.

"The strong and stable leadership that will be in the national interest and doing the right thing under the Conservatives or a weak and unstable coalition of chaos led by Jeremy Corbyn."

● Battle – See Page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weeds tackled in area spruce-up

A campaign group completed its latest project to spruce up a Black Country town centre.

Halesowen North councillors Hilary Bills, Stuart Henley and Karen Shakespeare rolled up their sleeves to tackle weeds in planters in Shell Corner.

They form the Shell Corner Partnership group together with Reverend Mike Sermon, of St Paul's Church in Blackheath.

Councillor Stuart Henley said: "The weeding session went well. We planting some little sapling bushes and cut out some weeds."

Rival moves to buy iconic carpets firm

A KIDDERMINSTER carpets firm has bought a local rival, which is one of the country's oldest and most prestigious independent manufacturers.

Brockway Carpets (Holdings)'s acquisition of The Grosvenor Wilton Company Limited, heralds a new era for the historic brand.

The deal sees Brockway purchase the trade and assets of Grosvenor Wilton, which has created the finest Wilton and bespoke carpets since 1790 for the world's most historic palaces, stately homes, public buildings and private residences.

Road safety drive targets the young

A leading young driver road safety charity has been commissioned by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver up to 1,000 additional places on its Pathfinder Project over the next four years.

The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust has been commissioned by West Mercia PCC, John Campion.

The commissioning will ensure that the Trust will deliver the programme to rising 17s across the whole West Mercia area and beyond.

Crowds flock to see water mill in action

Crowds flocked to see one of Britain's last working water-powered forge mills in action near Hagley.

Churchill Forge water mill produced metal tools such as spades, shovels and ladles until the early 1970s, and was open to the public on Easter Monday.

It is being maintained by volunteers as an important example of the industrial heritage of the West Midlands. The forge is open to the public again on May 13 and 14, June 11, July 9 and September 10 from 2pm to 5pm.

School's Race for Life

A CHARITY race will be held at a secondary school in a Black Country borough tomorrow.

Pupils at Summerhill School, Lodge Lane, Kingswinford, are taking part in their own Race for Life fundraiser from 4pm. They hope to raise more than £4,000 for Cancer Research UK.

BLINDS
DUDLEY - www.blind-deals.co.uk
BEST DEAL! 3 child safe verticals one per household offer £98
NO OBLIGATION HOME QUOTE
ALL PRICES INCLUDE FREE MEASURE & FITTING
HUGE CHOICE OF POPULAR FABRICS & GENEROUS SIZE RESTRICTIONS
CALL FREE contact your local advisor to see our fabric range & other available deals
0800 0214266

lifestyle Windows
Trading over 30 years OF KINGSWINFORD
"Tradsmen not Salesmen"
• Windows
• Doors
• Conservatories
• Fascias
• Guttering
• 10,000 local installations available for viewing - please ask
• Phone for a free quote and speak to Dave or Mark - deal direct with the owners
• No sales reps, no sub contractors
FENSA
Call us to find out why so many people choose Lifestyle Windows 01384 295855 or visit our website www.lifestylewindows.com
Kingswinford Fascias Part of the Windows Group
Kingswinford Window Doctor 2015 Range of Doors Now Available

Denture Care
New dentures will allow you to eat, smile and talk with CONFIDENCE!
• We have a special interest in your denture
• Listening to our patients , communication is key for success
• We can spend over 3 hours to ensure the perfect smile
• The most advance techniques are used to customise your denture all under one roof
• A range is avalible to accommodate everyone's budget .
NEW DENTURES | COPY DENTURES | NATURAL LOOKING | DENTURE REPAIR
Providing a professional, personal & discreet service. Patient satisfaction is our highest priority
CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
Lee Jorrington CDT RCS ENG RDT. 01384 468 648
3a BLACKBERRY LANE, HALESOWEN, B63 4NX
HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Doormat bags are not that charitable

A COLLECTION bag with a big logo for a cancer charity dropped on the doormat a couple of weeks ago. Having long been a sceptic about the organisations which carry out these collections, I put it back on the doorstep straight away. And despite the bag saying it would be collected the following Thursday, you will not be too surprised to find that it is still in my possession.

Anyway, sick of the sight of the thing, I decided to take a closer look. The small print on the back revealed it was not from a charity at all, but a private company which makes donations from its revenue towards the charity featured boldly on the front.

A bit more digging around reveals the same company has twice carried out unlicensed – and therefore illegal – collections in Bolton. It has also been stripped of its licence to operate in Torfaen, Monmouthshire, after donating just £12.50 to charity from a collection worth more than £250. That is a pitiful five per cent.

If I have any used clothes, jewellery or books that I want to give to charity, I think I will be taking them to my local charity shop in future.

❐❐❐

THE marketing team for nasty American lager brand Budweiser has caused a bit of controversy with its latest publicity stunt, which saw staff roll up in a 4x4 and start handing out cans of Bud Light to vagrants in the street.

I guess that's what they call knowing your market.

❐❐❐

MEANWHILE, down in the Big Smoke a somewhat disgruntled electrician returned a burger he bought from McDonalds, claiming somebody had already taken a bite out of it.

The burger chain has investigated closed-circuit television footage, and says it is a mystery how it happened.

But it does remind me of the time that I bought some pork scratching from a rather down-at-heel corner shop in the Black Country, only to find they had already been opened.

Returning, somewhat unhappily to the shop, I explained to the assistant what had happened. Her reply?

"It'll save yo openin' em, wo' it?"

❐❐❐

THERE are some rather strange special offers on at the W H Smith branch at Heathrow Airport at the moment. One promotion offers 48 Cadbury's Flakes for £45, there is a similar deal on Kit-Kats, while you can also get 24 Bounties for £22. Doesn't strike me as particularly good value, but you always pay through the nose at airports.

I bet whoever buys them will end up sat next to me.

Remember warning on the unexpected



Theresa May – will she return with a bigger Conservative majority?



Liz Truss announces 'fast track' system to remove foreign deportation dodgers



President Erdogan – success in referendum in Turkey means he can rule as sultan

Election: We May all be surprised

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WE all know what ought to happen. If you believe the polls and rely on past experience, Theresa May will be returned after the General Election with a bigger Conservative majority, Labour will be stuffed and Jeremy Corbyn will be sacked. But these are not normal times and the old rules may no longer apply. So I would not put a large bet on any of the above predictions coming true. And we could do worse in the coming weeks than remember Harold Macmillan's warning of the unexpected things that can upset every plan: "Events, dear boy, events."

JUSTICE Secretary Liz Truss has announced a new "fast track" system to remove foreign deportation dodgers within 25 days of their claims being rejected. We'll believe that when we see it, thanks.

"HUMANITY is destined for eternity, and death is the means by which we reach that joyful beginning," declared an archbishop on Radio Four's Prayer for the Day. If clerics are to be allowed to broadcast such claims, they should at least be obliged to carry the caveat that professional psychics and mediums are forced to display by law: "For entertainment purposes only."

SOME pundits say President Erdogan's success in the referendum in Turkey will give him enough power to rule as a 21st century sultan. This is bad news for his wife Emine who will, of course, become a sultana. But maybe, as his nation's currant leader, this is Erdogan's raisin d'etre. That's enough dried-fruit nonsense.

I WAS walking down a street the other day, clocking the cars on the drives, and realised to my surprise that more than half of them were diesels. So quite how the proposed diesel-scrappage scheme will work is anyone's guess. Figures of up to £2,000 have been banded about for vehicles more than 10 years old, on condition you buy a cleaner non-diesel car. But who in their right mind would willingly take that sum in exchange for, say, a 2007 Range Rover which still has a book value of £10,000 or more? And can anyone guarantee that this scheme will not be hijacked by Britain's thriving car-crime industry? The theory is that tens of thousands of perfectly sound diesel vehicles will be taken off the road and crushed. But how many will be spirited away in shipping containers, to carry on polluting in some other far smoggier corner of the Third World? Whitehall's bean counters are said to be doing the sums. So, too, I bet are the ungodly.

THE world's oldest person, Emma Morana, has died aged 117 in northern Italy. These so-called supercentenarians rarely agree on the reasons for their long lives. One will advocate being teetotal while another will swear by a daily double whisky. One will praise chocolate but another will say it's all due to pickled shark meat or yak yoghurt. Mrs Morana attributed her great age to her family's genes, two raw eggs a day and chucking out her abusive husband in 1938. Take your pick.

THE usual legion of instant experts has been queuing up on social media to assure us that North Korea's missiles which rumbled through Pyongyang last week are not missiles at all but an assortment of plastic and plywood models. See? You can tell by the wonky warheads. One Daily Telegraph reader claims he saw a similar parade in North Korea some years ago and the "missiles" were actually made of wood. Now, this may be ringing a bell with some older readers. Back in the 1930s, before the Second World War, one of the most popular urban myths concerned a friend of a friend who had been on a cycling holiday in Germany and came across a military exercise. And guess what? The German "tanks" were no such thing. They were just cars covered with hardboard sheets to look like tanks, with drainpipes for guns. It's just Adolf pulling the wool over our eyes, right? A couple of years later, thousands of Adolf's tanks, with real armour and real guns, swept the British Army aside and conquered France in a matter of weeks.

IF you believe it is possible to knock somebody out with a cricket bat for just a few minutes, rather than killing or merely stunning them, and if you also believe that a young, terrified and drunken teenager can be forced to rape an unconscious woman against his will, then you presumably think the finale of Broadchurch (ITV) was brilliant. The rest of us acknowledge that some of the acting was excellent. But the plot? Absolute piffle.

LAST words on our recent trip to Cornwall. However they may be marketed, The Lost Gardens of Heligan are not all that lost. It only took us 20 minutes to find them.

LIKEWISE, the 'Lost Valley' within the Lost Gardens was remarkably easy to locate. You just buy the map at the ticket office and follow it to the place marked 'Lost Valley'. I may be missing something.

OUR changing language. A kerflaver, invented accidentally by a pal at the weekend, is a cross between a kerfuffle and a palaver. It's a bit like a palfuffle.

TALKING POINT

Long and winding road is part of holiday

TAKE a look at this family enjoying their ideal holiday, free from the strains of everyday life. There's the children, itching to get onto that golden beach, then there's Mom, telling them to not go too far into the sea, and what about Dad? Well, he's quite happy reading his newspaper, thank you very much.

It's a delightful scene, and one which thousands of families will be replicating this summer (all right, Dad will probably be tapping away at his smartphone apps, but you get the picture). And a picture it most definitely is, because this family doesn't exist. They are actually on a poster above the table where I'm enjoying a pint and a bite to eat in a pub during a well-earned week's holiday.

The poster is a reprint of a British Railways advert from many years ago, in the days when travelling by train to your chosen resort was full of sunny promise.

These days, the station being advertised no longer exists, the site now obliterated by a modern housing development. In fact, the line isn't there either, with little evidence of there ever having been a rail service in that part of the world.

Fast forward to the hectic pace of the 21st Century and far from being part of the holiday, the journey to any holiday destination is merely a means to an end, the aim being to get along the motorway and A-roads in the fastest time possible, not forgetting a break at the services, of course.

However, there can be an enforced treat in store when you least expect it. In my particular case, the motorway was closed, in both directions, due to a lorry fire, necessitating a lengthy detour to get round the blockage. There was nothing else for it but to look for a route that ran roughly parallel with the motorway . . . which was where the overlooked delights of this island we call Great Britain began to reveal themselves.

Yes, it was a long and winding road with countless irritants such as traffic lights, speed limits, and queues to get through bottlenecks, but it soon started to create an idea of what going on holiday by car used to be like. It wouldn't have surprised me to see a friendly bobbie or two waving cheerily to passing motorists.

The scenery was better for a start, and some of the towns and villages looked as if they actually might be a good choice for a holiday themselves. But in the spring sunshine, the overall impression was that this was where the holiday really started, adding as it did to the mounting expectation.

That family in the BR poster would have approved of this leisurely diversion. I just hope Dad could stay calm in the face of cries of "Are we nearly there, yet?" coming from the back seat.

Wherever you go, and however you choose to get there, remember to make the most of every minute!

STEVE PARLETT

ASHWOOD NURSERIES
NURSERY | TEA ROOM | GIFT SHOP | GARDEN CENTRE



WWW.ASHWOODNURSERIES.COM
Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 0AE | 01384 401996
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 8.30am – 5:30pm
Sundays & Bank Holidays: 9am – 5:30pm

QUALITY KITCHEN FACELIFTS
The simple way to a new kitchen



why replace when you can reface?

- Free estimating and planning
- Trusted reputation
- Low cost with minimal hassle and disruption

Call Gary For a Free Estimate:
01384 375 224
www.dreamdoors.co.uk
dy@dreamdoors.co.uk
Dream Doors
26 Lower High Street,
Stourbridge, DY8 1TA

Active SENIORS

Post retirement but still active and want to stay that way? Would you like to maintain good general health or improve conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure or asthma but need guidance on what to do? Or are you simply just keen to keep well?

Why not try our lively Monday morning exercise class at Nine Locks Community Centre, Brierley Hill. This central, easy to reach venue is less than 10 minutes from Stourbridge, Dudley and Kingswinford and just up the road from Merry Hill.

Fully qualified and experienced instructors. Two Instructors in the class.

You will find a warm welcome and a friendly group waiting for you (gents welcome too) with refreshments after class.
£5 per session payable on the day.



Tel Kim and Angela on 07512 546480
Email activeseniorsclass@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/activeseniorsclass/

Has council completely lost the plot?

HAVE Dudley council lost the plot?

First of all we had a councillor saying they were to charge for emptying the green bins.

After protests the council did a U-turn. Then we had closing and demolishing three leisure centres and building two new ones.

It was said it would be cheaper to do this. Guess what, another U-turn after protests from the people that use them.

Then we have the suggestion of moving the council refuse tip in Stourbridge to Brockmoor.

Again it was said it would be cheaper to do this, despite the fact that there are two large council car parks unused next to the tip.

Just think of the added traffic if they moved this? I am waiting for a U-turn on this.

Then we are now reading reports of unhappy market traders some who have traded for over 60 years in Dudley.

The market traders say the new contracts are unfair and will send some of them to the wall.

They say the council won't even talk to them. Bearing in mind the council has just spent over seven million pounds on improving the stalls.

You would think they would be more interested in ensuring the stalls are taken up with happy traders, which brings in people shopping to Dudley.

How long will it be before someone at the council has some common sense and says: "I think we ought to talk to the market traders".

Again is this going to be a U-turn? I certainly hope so and by the way I agree with the U-turns.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

We had a long wait for the vote

THOSE of us who voted out in 1975 had to wait 41 years for a second EU referendum, so by my calculations die-hard remainers calling for a third must be patient until 2057. Now they know how we felt back in those bad old days.

Those who fear a 'hard-Brexit' are either too young or choose not to remember the turmoil of our hard entry into the EEC in 1973 when we were dragged in with no referendum. A few remainers are so bitter that they actually relish the prospect of the EU giving Britain a severe kicking.

Perhaps they would be happier relocating to the continent and cuddling up to their federalist mates than staying to suffer the ignominy of living among Brexiteers.

The European Commission claim they have no wish to punish the UK. They have done very little else since the day we joined.

BOB MONTROSE
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Check where MPs' donations come from

WE live in a democracy in which we elect a person to be our representative in Parliament, one man, one vote, but does it really work like that?

The elected MP will proclaim unremitting zeal in the service of his constituents but will often put party, career and other influences first.

We read of lobbying companies who are retained by vested interests to solicit the help of MPs in promoting their own agendas. We read of MPs receiving donations of half-a-million pounds or £10,000 or a half day a week job that pays £150,000; are we really to believe that these donors expect nothing in return?

Two old maxims spring to mind, 'no man can serve two masters' and 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'.

BRIAN OSBORNE
Dudley

My advice: You must earn vote

SOMETIME back in the dark ages, Thatcher hired an advertising agency to help her win the election.

They did this by running one of the most negative campaigns to date. Since those days we have had numerous elections in which all parties now campaign in the most negative way.

This culminated in the EU referendum, in which both sides utilised tactics that included practically every negative device known to mankind. These tactics are still being employed today by several MPs.

These MPs still have not noticed that there has now been a major change in politics. No longer are the electorate prepared to sit back and accept the lies and deceit of self-interested politicians. Too many promises have been broken, too many lies have been told.

My advice to all candidates is this: if you want my vote, you have to earn it.

Chris Jones
Brierley Hill

STUARTS PLUMBING AND HEATING
Tel: 01384 326360
Mob: 07708 731610
SPECIAL OFFER
Worcester Bosch Boilers
Starting from £1600
Fully Fitted
5-7 Year Warranty
Vaillant
WORCESTER Bosch Group
GAS safe REGISTER
www.stuarts-plumbing.co.uk

Make the RIGHT decision this Spring and give RYDALE a ring...
RYDALE SPRING SALE
CELEBRATING Our 32nd ANNIVERSARY 2017
Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards
Cleaning Services now available to restore all your uPVC products. Guttering and Driveways cleaning available
No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed
Visit one of the largest conservatory and window shrowrooms in the UK
Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands
Repair Service Available
RYDALE 10 YEAR Insurance Backed GUARANTEED
Guardian Warm Roof
Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round
Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.
ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE
Rydale take security very seriously Guaranteed high security on ALL products
Full details on request
MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON MAY INSTALLATIONS
FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 www.rydalewindows.co.uk Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS
Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm
Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

Midland UPVC Windows and Doors Ltd

Buy British



Upvc windows from
£245.00



Conservatory Offer
3X3 EDWARDIAN OR VICTORIAN
Include base, dwarf walls
Plastering, 2 opening per window
2 double sockets & light
From £7500 fully fitted



Any size composite door any standard colour from
£900 fully fitted
Special offer upvc front and back door
£1150 fully fitted

10 reasons to choose Midland upvc windows and doors

- Family run business
- Managed by surveyors with 40 years of experience
- No subcontractors
- 10 year insurance guarantee with home pro
- All windows and doors are A rated
- Free quotes
- No pushy salesmen
- All products are secured by design
- Approved by Certass
- Deal direct with the owner

MASSIVE SAVINGS ON ALL APRIL ORDERS

Ask about Bi-Fold doors

certass HomePro

Picture for illustration purposes. T/C's APPLY

ALL AREAS COVERED 01384 234170 / 01384 429152
VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.MIDLANDUPVC.CO.UK
midlandupvc@live.co.uk
TELEPHONE LINES OPEN TIL 8PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

Cameras roll on new Laurel and Hardy



Double take – Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly filming scenes for Laurel and Hardy movie Stan and Ollie

A STAR-STUDDED cast has started work on a movie about legendary comedy double act Laurel and Hardy – and will soon be heading to the Black Country.

Scenes have been filmed now in Bristol ahead of it being partly shot in Dudley later this year.

The movie, which focuses on the iconic twosome's final tour, stars co-median Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly.

Details of the filming in Dudley are being kept under wraps but it is possible the decision to come to the town could be linked to the Hippodrome theatre, where the duo appeared in 1947 and again in 1952 – staying across the road at the Station Hotel.

Alan Partridge star Coogan will play Lancashire-born Stan Laurel and American actor Reilly, who starred in Chicago and Kong: Skull Island, will appear as Oliver Hardy in Stan and Ollie.

Producers from the BBC announced a casting call for people from the West Midlands to be extras last month. An advert posted on www.castingcollective.co.uk said: "Men and women of all ages wanted for filming in Birmingham and Dudley for a major feature film about Laurel and Hardy set in the 1950s.

"You must be over 16, legally allowed to work in the UK with National Insurance number. Good rates of pay."

Laurel and Hardy burst onto the Hollywood scene in the 1920s, appearing in more than 100 films together. They performed as a double act for more than 30 years.

Head of BBC Films Christine Langan hailed Coogan and Reilly as a 'dream casting' to portray the 'genius creative marriage' of the comedy duo. .

The duo appeared in our sister pager the Express & Star following their appearance at Dudley Hippodrome in 1947, in which they were said to have 'rocked the packed house'.

SPRING IS HERE!!
DOES YOUR PROPERTY NEED A SPRING CLEAN?

Celebrating 17 Years in Business

Due to popular demand now taking bookings for Weekends and Bank Holidays



Tiled roofs washed and cleaned





At BTF we specialise in the external cleaning of properties. Our team of experts are trained to tackle and revive the most dirty and worn of driveways, patios, tiled roofs and UPVC products. Based in Halesowen we offer a professional, friendly and efficient service, with thousands of satisfied customers across the West Midlands.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE :-
- ✔ Driveway and Patio cleaning
- ✔ Driveway Sealing and Recolouring
- ✔ UPVC Guttering, Fascia and Soffits, washed & cleaned
- ✔ Conservatories and Orangeries cleaned (inside & out)
- ✔ Tiled roofs washed and cleaned





For all of your external cleaning requirements,
call the experts at BTF Cleaning Services!!

BTF CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED
www.btfcleaningservices.co.uk
Narrow Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands. B62 9ND
Tel/Fax No: 01384 568345

Simply Dentures

Creating beauty in every smile



For more information call : 01902 664634



Our patient Joyce, happy to show off her new smile to her daughter

- *Free Consultation
- *New Dentures
- *Copy Sets
- *Repairs
- *Relines
- *Additions
- *Cleaning Service
- *Implant Retained
- *Denture Health Check

Family gatherings can be challenging events at the best of times. Being embarrassed about your dentures and hiding up the corner at functions is something you may feel you have to do. Being able to smile with confidence like our patient Joyce, is something we feel all denture wearers should be able to do. At **Simply Dentures** we offer bespoke denture treatments and take time to listen to your individual needs. You get to see the Clinical Technician who makes your dentures. This gives you the confidence that you will get the smile you deserve.

Our purposed designed clinic has ground floor facilities with easy access for all. Call us now for an information brochure and see how we can help you to eat, smile and talk with confidence. Call us on 01902 664634



Clinical Dental Technician: Peter Brookes. GDC No. 124429

For more information see...
www.simplydentures.net
16-17 Roseville Precinct
Castle Street, Coseley, WV14 9EP

Inspirational Grace pens song on cancer battle

AN inspirational singer from the Black Country who is nearing the end of her treatment for an aggressive form of cancer has recorded a song about her battle with the disease.

In May last year, Grace Nkounkou-Issombe, 24, and husband Ambrose Ogbechie had just welcomed their first child Austin into the world when Grace started to have difficulty walking.

In July, the results of a biopsy on a lump on her right femur, previously diagnosed as benign, found osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, and treatment started immediately at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.



Singer Grace Nkounkou-Issombe with son Austin

Decision

But in December, Grace made the difficult decision to have her leg amputated, as the chemotherapy wasn't proving as effective as hoped. Thankfully the most intensive part of her chemotherapy and other treatment is now over, and with the help of physiotherapists and a prosthetic, Grace is hoping to learn to walk again this year, while completing the rest of her treatment.

Throughout her ordeal, support for Grace and her family has been available from cancer support charity CLIC Sargent.

The charity works with young patients aged up to 25 and their families, and has an independent team based at the QE providing financial and emotional support to young people like Grace.

CLIC Sargent also runs a music programme which offers young people with cancer the chance to get involved in a range of activities to help them develop their song-writing and composition skills, and grow as performers. It was through CLIC Sargent's music programme that Grace had the chance to professionally record her song entitled In your honour at the Summerfield Studios in Birmingham. The track is is about how her faith has pulled her through her darkest times.

Grace said: "The song we've written means a lot to me. It's about how even when I've been in a dark place over the last year, I've never felt alone.

"One of my favourite lines in the song is 'I am fearless when you walk with me,' because without my faith in God I think I might have been too scared, and given up.

"And even though it might sound strange to some people, cancer hasn't just been a negative experience. There have been a lot of positive things that have come out of all this. I've met so many special people on my journey who have helped me so much, and I have a different perspective on life now. Now I want to make the most of every day that I've got."

Visit www.clicsargent.org.uk

I'm desperate for a NEW BATHROOM

I've tried lots of other reputable companies but their prices are too high! CAN YOU HELP?



YES!! WE CAN HELP YOU

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850.00
- 90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
- 15 SQM Wall Tiles
- Tiled Floor
- Replacement Shower
- New Basin & WC

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in & out of your bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle & Tiled inside. Supply a new replacement shower A Folding Seat & Grab Rail

ALL FOR ONLY £2150.00

VAT FREE IN QUALIFYING CASES

DAYTIMES & WEEKEND VISITS A PLEASURE

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."



YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

VISA MasterCard

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH

01384 287222

Showroom also at: 39, Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW

01902 861908

SHOWROOMS OPEN 9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

FREE FULL SIZE CHROME HEATED LADDER RAIL FITTED WITH EVERY BATHROOM SOLD

- Sales
- Hire
- Service
- Repair

STRAITS MOBILITY

www.straitsmobility.co.uk

STAIRLIFTS STRAIGHT & CURVED

FULLY FITTED NEW FROM £1195

RECONDITIONED FROM £700

In Store Demonstration available

Free! Home survey and fitting on all stairlifts. All work carried out by fully qualified engineers





LARGE RANGE OF NEW AND PRE-OWNED SCOOTERS AVAILABLE



RISE & RECLINER CHAIRS from £495

3, Middlepark Road, Russells Hall Estate, Dudley DY1 2LW

Open Mon-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm Sat 9.30am - 12.30pm

01384 356 356

NOW OPEN AT BILSTON INDOOR MARKET

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday



DS FLOORING

TRUSTED FATHER AND SON BUSINESS - BUT DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK REVIEWS

CARPETS FROM £3.99 sq yard

ANTI-SLIP VINYL FROM £6.99 sq metre

LAMINATE FROM £8.99 sq metre









Kings Court Trading Estate, Sedgley Road East, Tipton DY4 8XA

0121 520 4200 07756 578 028

Award-winning firm has clear vision



Arwyn Jones, of Beacon Centre, with Rebecca Harrison, of winning company DHC Informatics

AN INNOVATIVE device which will improve the quality of life of thousands of people with double vision has received £20,000 after winning a top award.

The Beacon Centre and the University of Wolverhampton joined forces to offer the 2017 Beacon Visionary+ Challenge Award.

The winner has been announced as the 'lens slip occluder', which was developed by Staffordshire company DHC Informatics. The revolutionary device has been developed primarily to treat and alleviate diplopia (double vision) but it can also be effective in the treatment of visual disturbance caused by such conditions as multiple sclerosis, stroke, head injury, cataracts and glaucoma.

The occluder is an optical device worn over a pair of glasses to improve vision when reading, watching television or using a computer.

The award consists of £10,000 social investment from Beacon and £10,000 worth of consultancy support from the University of Wolverhampton.

The winner was chosen from a shortlist by a panel of leading tech entrepreneurs and sight-loss experts.

DHC Informatics' director Rebecca Harrison said: "Diplopia is one of the most common vision disorder in the UK today. There are over 100,000 MS sufferers and over 150,000 people suffer a stroke each year, more than half of whom will experience problems with diplopia or blurred vision."

Arwyn Jones, chief executive officer of Beacon, said: "We were particularly impressed with the presentation from DHC and the fact that their product can quickly get to market and benefit people with double vision disorders.

"Beacon is delighted that the competition prize will be used to help the business move forward and develop products. Our investment has inspired an innovative sensory solution that delivers on the aims of the charity."

SHOWROOM SPECIAL

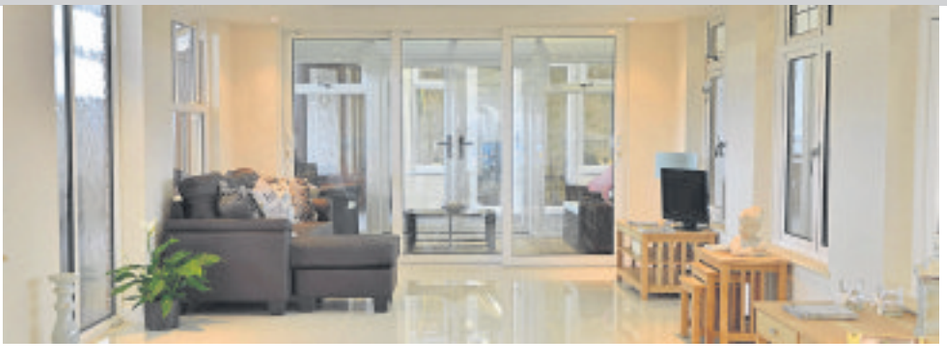
A MASSIVE 40% OFF

and receive AN EXTRA 10% OFF BY VISITING OUR SHOWROOM TODAY.















Visit one of the leading Midland double glazing showrooms and you wont be disappointed in what you see.

Six conservatories two orangeries, two porches, 27 doors, three sliding patios, two bifold doors, sliding sash windows.

DW Windows

BUILT ON QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY AND RELIABILITY

WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORY CENTRE

We also offer a more premium specialist range such as residence 9 windows, Aluminium, Flush sash as well as tiled conservatory roof options.

8 Meadow Lane (Off Shaw Road), Coseley, West Midlands, WV14 9NQ Tel: 01902 661779

7 Brick Street, Sedgley DY3 1NT Tel: 01902 662511 Stourbridge 01384 900 185

www.dwwindows.co.uk Freephone: 0800 9990909

Parents are jailed over tragic baby bath death

THE parents of a 13-month-old boy who drowned in a bath have been jailed for a total of eight-and-a-half years.

Kian Dale had been left alone in a bath seat in the upstairs bathroom in the home of Wayne Dale, aged 45, and his former partner Lisa Passey, 28.

When the child was in the water, in a seat suctioned to the bottom of the bath, the pair were downstairs socialising with a friend.

After about 15 minutes, Dale went upstairs and found the boy with his head and upper body immersed in water.

Passey called for emergency services and Dale tried to resuscitate the toddler while waiting for paramedics at the home in Kyreside, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.

Negligence

An air ambulance was called and Kian was flown to Birmingham Children's Hospital but staff were unable to save him.

Following a two-week trial, both defendants were found guilty of manslaughter by gross negligence as well as cruelty to a person under 16 years. At Worcester Crown Court, Dale was sentenced to four years six months and Passey to four years.

Emily Lenham, of West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said: "Both defendants were fully aware that Kian, their 13-month-old child, had been left unsupervised in a bath full of water.

"The death of Kian Dale was tragic and completely avoidable."

Detective Inspector Justin Taylor, from West Mercia Police, said: "This has been a tragic case.

"Kian should have had the opportunity to enjoy his bath time while under the care of his mother or father.

"However, both Wayne Dale and Lisa Passey chose to leave him in a bath unsupervised upstairs for a significant period of time while they socialised downstairs. Their neglectful actions meant that Kian lost his life."

Robert leads dream show



Top conductor Robert Emery, aged 34, who comes from Pelsall

AS a small boy playing his piano along to Top of the Pops at his Pelsall home, Robert Emery dreamed of hitting the big time.

Now a professional conductor and pianist, he has landed a role working on the Bat Out Of Hell musical – one of the UK's biggest new stage shows.

He was chosen by Grammy Award-winning record producer Jim Steinman who was behind Meat Loaf's Bat Out Of Hell album back in 1977 – one of the best-selling records of all time. Forty years after its release is has been converted into a stage show with 34-year-old Mr Emery conducting the music.

Mr Emery, who has worked on musical projects across the world including working alongside Russell Watson, has been conducting the show at the Opera House in Manchester since January before it heads to London Coliseum for 56 nights from June 5.

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE!



BUDGET TYRES from £24.98
E.g. 155/70/13T Quality Budget

FIRESTONE TYRES from £49.98
E.g. 205/55/16V Firestone

BRIDGESTONE TYRES from £57.98
E.g. 205/55/16V Bridgestone

All prices correct at the time of publication.

MOT SPECIAL OFFER ONLY £35
ETB MENU SERVICE
FULL & INTERIM AVAILABLE
Call for a FREE quotation

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS VISA MasterCard Maestro

MERRY HILL
Level Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UA
Close to Merry Hill Centre
01384 75555

WE ARE OPEN:
MONDAY - FRIDAY - 8.30am - 6.00pm
SATURDAYS - 8.00am - 4.00pm

ETB
A family run business for over 35 years.

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE!
ALL INCLUSIVE PRICES WITH NO HIDDEN EXTRAS!

More great tyre bargains online at
www.etbtyres.co.uk



Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd

UNBEATABLE QUALITY AND VALUE FROM THE BESPOKE SPECIALISTS



Don't Settle for Less
● Kitchens ● Bedrooms
● Bathrooms ● Extensions
● Loft Conversions
● Home Offices
From a door or worktop replacement to an extension



What our customers say...
"Wonderful kitchen, I have already recommended you and would not hesitate to recommend QKM to anyone."
"Can't believe the transformation from start to finish, totally professional."

HOMEOWNERS...
Looking to Sell?
Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay
Just Moved In?
Let us help to transform your property into a dream home
Decided to Stay?
Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential
Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life

At QKM
We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market
THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN
Membership No A120074
'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'

Appliances: Neff, Bosch, Rangemaster, Belling, Hotpoint, Stoves and many more
Franke Sinks 50 Year Guarantee

The Largest Working Luce Kitchen in the Midlands at our Netherton Showroom

All types of Flooring supplied and Wet Wall Solutions for Bathrooms
Range of Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms to suit all budgets

Did you know 80% of our customers are retired?
60% plus of all our appointments are referrals or existing customers requiring further work.
Find out why we are trusted for yourself
BOOK YOUR NO OBLIGATION QUOTE TODAY ON 01384 232413

Head Office & Showroom
149 Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9BL
01299 877718 | 01384 232413 | 0121 550 4821
Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm, Thursdays 9am - 7pm
Saturdays 10am - 4pm

Customer satisfaction guaranteed.
WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
VISA Maestro MasterCard DELTA

www.qualitykitchenmakeoversltd.co.uk FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

WHERE TRADITIONAL ELEGANCE
MEETS MODERN TECHNOLOGY

UP TO 28% OFF
BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
(Sale Starts 27/4/17 Ends 2/5/17)
Offer available at time of quotation only
Open Bank Holiday Monday 10am - 4pm








KEEPING YOUR HOME AUTHENTIC, SAFE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT THIS SPRING
BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED WINDOWS, DOORS, CONSERVATORIES & ORANGERIES
We are a professional, family run, local company who have over 35 years year-on-year trading installing quality windows, doors, conservatories and orangeries. We pride ourselves on our high quality standards and that we can offer all our customers total satisfaction on whatever you need.

Wombourne Windows™
ORANGERIES AND CONSERVATORIES

For more information call us now on
01902 897000
or visit our website at www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

FSB FENSA No 10753 TRUSTMARK
Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL
Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-2pm
evolution storm HomePro

New chapter for musician as character in horror book

HE is the eye-catching filmmaker and musician most people will recognise for being clean shaven on one side of his face while sporting lengthy locks and a full beard on the other.

Now Stourbridge's Nick J Townsend has conquered another medium after becoming a character in an American horror book.

The multi-talented entertainer is one of the main protagonists in Reaping Sorrows (Children of Enoch Book 2) by author Edward Gehlert.

Nick said: "He [Gehlert] contacted me about a year ago and said he had been following my career. Then he said 'I would really like to use you as a character in my book'.

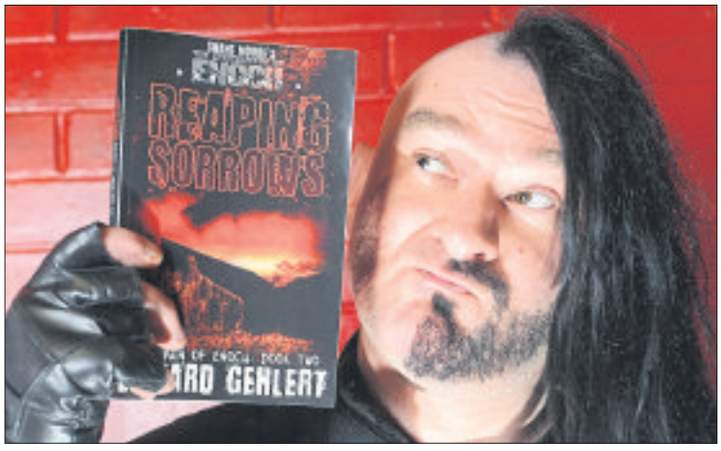
"I though 'great, but how?' He said if my band WEAK13 had of been around in the States at the time of the apocalypse it would be interesting to see how I would handle it."

Nick spent around six months talking Gehlert through his own character including how he talks and reacts to different types of situations. He added: "He has made me a central character having to meet others in the book and explain who I am.

"It is a really well-written book. Unlike other books of this type you do not know if all of the characters are good or not. In one sense they are the heroes but there is also a lot of ambiguity about them.

"The bottom line is I am a fictional character in an American horror book."

Reaping Sorrows was published on April 6. It is the follow-up to Dark Harvest (Children of Enock Book 1) novel.



Stourbridge's Nick J Townsend features as a character in a new horror book

Coach company driving forward

A BLACK Country coach hire company has expanded due to rising demand.

Greenline Coaches has now purchased three new vehicles. The Stourbridge-based company was supported with £500,000 funding from Santander Business Bank.

Bosses say the cash boost has enabled Greenline to respond to an increasing client base and high demand by purchasing three new coaches.

The coaches are 49-seaters, equipped with air suspension, toilets, air conditioning, Wi-Fi and drinks facilities. Andy Phillips, managing director at Greenline Coaches, said: "Our ethos of putting the customer first has proved to be very successful.

"It has put our company firmly on the map for great holidays, day tours and private hire in the Black Country. We would like to thank Santander and our customers old and new for supporting the growth of the business."

Matthew Smith, relationship director at Santander corporate and commercial, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been able to support the team at Greenline Coaches to grow their fleet."

Bosses want access road in plan for office block

THE owners of the eyesore Cavendish House office block in Dudley want an access road to be created from a major dual carriageway before it is knocked down, it has been revealed.

Bosses behind a long-awaited redevelopment of the site have told council chiefs they need a road to be created from Duncan Edwards Way to draw shoppers to the area.

By Richard Guttridge

It could present yet another obstacle in the saga surrounding Cavendish House, which has stood empty for years.

A masterplan for the site would see the derelict office block bulldozed to be replaced by a retail and shopping development.

But owners Avenbury fear the site is currently too closed off to attract sufficient custom and want a road leading to the site to be created near the main dual carriageway, not far from Cousins furniture store.

Venture

Cutting a new road into land off such a busy road would be a major venture, and Highways England would have to be brought on board.

It has been suggested a fast-food restaurant could be built on the access road as a way of attracting people to the site.

Dudley's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the site's owners needed to prove the development could create sufficient jobs and growth to get funding from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as it would be unlikely to provide cash for a demolition job alone. It all means the bulldozing of the building appears to be a way off.

Councillor Ahmed said: "They want to have another entry into the site near the bridge on Duncan Edwards Way. We are working with highways to make sure their request is reasonable.

"We are negotiating and talking and trying to see if we can help them.

"If it is something they feel needs to be added then we should support it.

"There are opportunities in Dudley with the bus station and the metro – all these things are exciting and we want to make this happen."

The latest twist comes after Councillor Ahmed called for Cavendish House to be knocked down as soon as possible and the planning chief reiterated his desire to see progress on the scheme.

If the building, off Trindle Road, is knocked down it is then hoped the area will be redeveloped creating homes, restaurants and shops.

Walk will highlight mental health issues

A leading charity will be hosting a 10-mile walk to raise awareness of mental health.

West Midlands-based health and wellbeing charity, The Kaleidoscope Plus Group, will be Walking out of Darkness on May 6 to raise awareness of mental health and suicide prevention.

The walk across Birmingham will finish off with a family fun day at Canon Hill Park where there will be a showcase of mental health and wellbeing services. Dave Pickard, wellbeing services co-ordinator at The Kaleidoscope Plus Group, is urging people to take part and join in the fun.

He said: "I ask everyone based in the Sandwell and the Midlands area to come along and enjoy the fun. The aim is to unite together with your local community, walk at your own pace, along the Birmingham canals and help reduce the stigma by engaging in conversations with others."

For details visit www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk





A new season has arrived so make some room this Spring with our fabulous new **2017 furniture collections**. There's special **introductory offers** & **extra discounts**.

It's simply a great time to buy this May Day Weekend!





Come dine with us... delicious dining sets **from just...** £149

Cool & functional contemporary wardrobes **from just...** £199

Really useful storage divan sets **from just...** £199

WILLIAM&SONS

"What ever your budget or style... we've got the furniture to suit!"

Level Street | Merry Hill | Dudley | West Midlands | DY5 1UA | T. 01384 77444 | www.williamandsons.co.uk | OPENING HOURS: Fri 10-5.30pm Sat 10-6pm Sun 11-5pm May Day 10-6pm

Alstons Baker bardi BUOYANT Harrison HTL KINGSTOWN Lebus Myer's rauch ROM

0% APR Representative *Deferred interest free credit offer available on balances over £400. Representative Example: Cash Price £600, Deposit £150, Total Amount of Credit £450. Duration of the Agreement 18 months. 12 x Monthly Repayments of £37.50 starting 6 months after delivery or collection. Annual Rate of Interest 0%. Representative APR 0%. Total Amount Payable £600. Written details available on request. Credit is subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Price Match Promise Terms & Conditions apply. Ask in store or see our website for further details. All offers subject to availability E&OE.

Youngsters select their top reads

PUPILS from Dormston School have been joined by other Dudley borough pupils at a special event to celebrate teenage reading.

The Dudley Teenage Book Awards, which is organised by Dudley Council's library service, invites pupils to read from a shortlist of books written for teenagers and vote for their favourite every year.

More than 300 pupils attended the event and the winner for best book was Peter Brunzi from North London, for his book Cogheart. Peter's book was praised by young people for being a modern classic.

Library customers, reading groups and school book groups were encouraged to read as many of the 2016 titles as possible but young people could still vote for their favourite even if they didn't manage to read all the nominations.

Author's talk on new novel

AN author from the Black Country has spoken of her pride ahead of hosting a talk at her local library.

Briony Marshall is visiting Sedgley Library on May 3 to give a speech about her debut novel.

The 26 year old said: "I'm very excited to be giving a talk at my local library as the place holds many memories for me." To book call 01384 812790.

Five-way junction in line for £90,000 improvements

A NOTORIOUS five-way junction in the Black Country will undergo £90,000 of improvements in a bid to improve traffic flow, it has been revealed.

Work will take place at Himley Road and Bull Street in Gornal. New smart technology will be introduced on signals to improve traffic backlogs which have caused problems in recent months.

It was approved by the Black Country Joint Committee on last week.

By Simon Stone

Councillor David Stanley, who represents the Gornal ward, said: "As far as I am concerned any improvements we can make on it the better. It is incredibly busy on the crossroads with a three-way traffic light switch at the moment.

Queues

"It can be very frustrating in the queues there and the traffic can build up right the way back to the Milking Bank island. This is good news that something will now be done about it."

The busy junction sits on the Himley to Dudley Road where Bull Street and Redhall Road lead into Gornal.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, spoke of future plans for the area.

He said: "We welcome any opportunity to make junctions easier.

"It needs new signals but later on we may need to do something further than that because there are housing developments that are taking shape around there and that junction is key.

"We need to make it wider and bigger and will be exploring options similar to that of the works on Shaw Road in Coseley, but it will come down to funding.

"But in these current plans new technology should help with the traffic flow.

"We need to explore something better and if we do that it will be a bigger and more expensive job."

Outcry over market trader contract changes



Councillor Patrick Harley and Bill Etheridge MEP, with traders at Dudley Market

OPPOSITION leaders have criticised Dudley Council for 'poorly managing' its contract negotiations with market traders.

Traders have protested over changes to their working terms and conditions in a new contract currently out to tender – which they say could kill off the market.

But the authority has moved to insist the market is not under threat from closure. Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the Conservative group in Dudley, and Councillor Bill Etheridge MEP, criticised Dudley Council's behaviour in the negotiation process.

They met traders who run businesses from the outdoor market on Dudley High Street to show their support.

Councillor Harley said: "I think the main concern of traders is the terms and conditions. The council should sit down with traders – not with one or two – but all of the traders and go back to the drawing board."

Councillor Etheridge said: "I have sympathy for traders, it is another example of poor management."

Dudley Council's strategic director for place, Alan Lunt, said: "We can categorically state that we are not looking to close the market. We want to make it more attractive, bustling and vibrant." The new contract will come into effect from July 1.

Evening of songs from big shows

A BLACK Country theatre group has announced details of its next performance.

Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company is performing a selection of musical pieces from stage and screen at Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley, on Saturday.

The concert, A Grand Night for Singing, will involve music from well-known musicals such as My Fair Lady, Jersey Boys, Les Miserables, Kiss Me Kate, Sister Act and Starlight Express.

The concert is part of the company's 70th anniversary celebrations, which will include a production of My Fair Lady at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in October.

Tickets are £8 each, with the performance starting at 7.30pm.

Call 0345 658 8095 to book tickets.

Alert after chip pan fire

RESIDENTS across the Black Country are being reminded not to leave chip pans unattended after a kitchen fire.

Dudley fire station issued the reminder after attending a kitchen fire on Duke Street in Upper Gornal on Saturday night.

The damage to the house is unknown however it is not thought to be severe. The woman was uninjured.

EMPORIUM 13
Fine Gold and Silver Jewellery
Specialising in Handmade Bespoke Designs new pieces made from old Jewellery
• Also Stocking ladies clothing • All your high street brands at low prices • Quality Giftware
Open daily from 9.30 am - Closed on Wednesday
01902 884772
13 Dudley Street, Sedgley DY3 1SA | Emporium13@sky.com
Find us on Facebook

LETS Dance DANCEWEAR
113 Bilston Street, Sedgley DY3 1JE
Complete range of shoes, clothing and accessories
Tap, ballet, stage, freestyle, latin, ballroom, sequence, exercise, tango, salsa and much more.
Qualified pointe shoe fitting
01902 672939

CHANGING ROOMS
IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING YOUR HOME
Bathrooms • Kitchens • Home Improvements
Is bathing becoming difficult?



Let us make life easier...
Wet Room Specialists & Easy Access Bathing Solutions
Tel: 01902 670426
Email: enquiries@changingrooms.org.uk
47a Kent Street, Upper Gornal, Dudley DY3 1UU

Hotpoint Whirlpool Zanussi Sony White Knight Electrolux Belling LEC New World
Hotpoint
WMACQL741P
Washing Machine
£249.99
• 7kg
• Spin 1400 (rpm)
• 14 Programmes
• Energy Rating A++
• 10 years parts and 1 year labour guarantee



Deliver, Connect and Collect Old Machine £25
www.gouldstv.co.uk
GOULDS Electrical & Gas Superstore
BILSTON STREET, SEDGLEY
Telephone: 01902 664121
Open: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

BOSTIN LITTLE PET SHOP
EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR PET
BAKERS DOG ADULT BEEF & VEG CHICKEN & VEG 2.7KG £4.75
FELIX SENSATIONS CRUNCHIES MEAT/FISH 10PK X 100G £3.49
DREAMIES CAT TREATS 60G CHEESE/CHICKEN/SALMON £1.00
SELECTIVE RABBIT £5.99
GUINEA PIG £6.99



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Situated in Concord Market, Sedgley (at the back)
Contact Darren on 07758 236937

TO ADVERTISE IN AND AROUND THE SEDGLEY AREA
PLEASE CONTACT JAYNE
01384 353220

SPRING SALE

EXTRA DISCOUNTS

OFF ALL SALE PRICES

Ends Bank Holiday Monday

Cousins' Spring Sale Extra Discounts offer ends this Bank Holiday Monday at the Midlands' largest and most inspirational furniture stores.

With huge reductions on every single item, there's never been a better time to save on furniture, carpets, beds, homewares and much more, including all the famous brand names.

Buy now and pay nothing until next year - not even a deposit - interest free!









Denby · Parker Knoll · HALO · Fama · TEMPUR · DURESTA · ercol

LOW SALE PRICES. PAY NOTHING UNTIL NEXT YEAR. NO DEPOSIT.

Cousins

a true family business

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | Late Nights: Tuesday & Thursday until 8pm
Bank Holiday Monday 10am to 6pm

Birmingham	Dudley	Manchester
Warwick Road,	Hall Street	A57, Regent Rd,
Tyseley. B11 2EW.	DY2 8NW.	Salford. M5 4EA.
T: 0121 765 3300	T: 01384 451500	T: 0161 875 4070

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

PRICE PROMISE Our price promise to you, we won't be beaten on price! *

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS

- Free parking
- Instore restaurant
- Large stocks
- Immediate delivery

TRUSTED MERCHANT 2016 ★★★★★ feefo

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE Deferred Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. Subject to status. All balances must be paid in January 2018 on the date specified at the time of purchase. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items or in store concessions. Some items are subject to one per household and only available in limited colours, or the colours shown in this advert. Prices in this advert are valid until 01.05.17. wSee website for Price Promise details.

AKAI BRAUN BOSCH Breville CARMEN DeLonghi Morphy Richards dyson Elgento Ewbank Hoover itek KENWOOD

CORDLESS VACUUM £40

AVAILABLE IN Swan MICROWAVES

CORDLESS VAC £50

SOUP MAKER FROM £25

Swan PAN SETS AVAILABLE IN

ASH VAC £20

BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

Swan KETTLE & TOASTER SET AVAILABLE IN

MOBILITY

ELECTRIC PRESSURE COOKER FROM £30

Swan SENSOR BINS AVAILABLE IN

WHEELCHAIRS

PICNIC BASKET

Swan MIXERS ONLY £60 AVAILABLE IN

HALOGEN HEATER FROM £5

PRESSURE COOKER FROM £15

AVAILABLE IN Swan RETRO ACCESSORIES

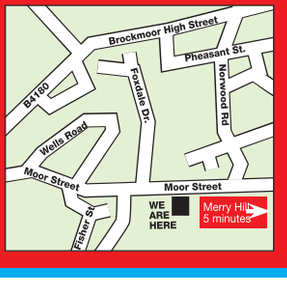
HAIR CARE FROM £10

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL SAT 29TH APRIL 2017

kettleandtoasterman.co.uk

Kettle and Toaster Man
TRADE WAREHOUSE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Unit 2C, Albion Works, Moor St., Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3SZ
Tel: 01384 483 286
Est. Over 20 Years * OPEN: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-12pm

We specialise in finding you the best deals available on daily basis. We stock electrical and other amazing retail products at up to 90% off the normal retail selling price.
MANY MORE OFFERS INSTORE....



KitchenAid Swan mogimix natural life PHILIPS PIFCO Tefal Russell Hobbs smeg Swan TOSSIMO TEKNIQUE TOWER VAX warmrite

AKAI BRAUN BOSCH Breville CARMEN DeLonghi Morphy Richards dyson Elgento Ewbank Hoover itek KENWOOD

Past rivalries come to the fore as big three in battle

DUDLEY North is set to see past rivalries renewed as the same three candidates from 2015 face-off in this year's General Election.

UKIP's Bill Etheridge said he is 'up for the Brexit battle' as he confirmed that he would be bidding to represent the party in the June 8 poll.

It came after Theresa May's call for a General Election was backed in Parliament by 522 MPs for and just 13 against.

And the election could be a case of 'as you were' from 2015, with Ian Austin defending the seat he has held for Labour since 2005, and Les Jones once again considering throwing his hat into the ring for the Tories. Sedgley councillor and UKIP defence spokesman Mr Etheridge said he is hoping to get the nod for another crack at Parliament following his third place finish in the 2015 election.



Ian Austin



Bill Etheridge



Les Jones

"I always said that I'd have another shot at trying to get to Westminster after coming fairly close two years ago," said Mr Etheridge, who was third in the UKIP leadership contest last September.

"I am 100 per cent up for the Brexit battle. As a party we see this as a seat that is there for us to win and we are ready for an all out assault."

In 2015 Mr Etheridge polled 24 per cent of the vote, behind Mr Jones on 30.8 per cent and incumbent Mr Austin on 41.8 per cent.

Mr Jones said he has spoken to the Dudley North Conservative Association over the possibility of standing again this year. "It is something that I have considered, but I think whoever the candidate is for the Conservatives will have a good chance," he said.

Dudley North is likely to be considered a target seat for the Conservatives.

Labour currently holds a majority of 11 per cent, but in 2010 it was just 1.7 per cent.

Mr Austin, who grew up in Dudley and lives in the borough, said it was a huge privilege to have served the constituency as an MP. He said: "I've worked hard to stand up for folk in Dudley and I always will."

Baby injured as car hits pushchair

A BABY was taken to hospital after a car mounted a kerb and hit two women with a pushchair.

The 18-month-old child was thrown from the pushchair, which was was left trapped under the car on Ashenhurst Road, Dudley, near Russells Hall Hospital, last Wednesday at around 3pm.

The Peugeot left the road hitting two women who were walking on the pavement.

The child suffered minor facial injuries and was taken to hospital along with a 24-year-old woman, who suffered bruising to her head and was given pain relief.

Another woman who was on the pavement and the driver of the car were not thought to be hurt.

West Midlands Police said the driver of the Peugeot spoke to officers at the scene but was not arrested.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray McGregor said: "The pushchair rolled over and its wheel was trapped under the car.

"The baby suffered minor injuries to its face."

Roan scoops silver in karate contest



Roan McDermott, aged 11, with his silver medal from the WUKF European Championships in Romania

AN 11-year-old karate kid has returned home from competing in the WUKF European Championships in Romania for Team GB – bagging a silver medal.

Roan McDermott, from Oldbury, has followed in his father's footsteps by taking up karate.

Clive McDermott also once competed in the England squad for karate when he was younger.

But now Roan, who studies at Moat Farm Junior School and trains at Dudley Shukokai at Thorns Community College in Brierley Hill, has competed across the country and Ireland but his trip to Romania from April 5 to 10 was his first competition further afield.

He won the medal in the Kumite fighting category. His mother Theresa McDermott said she was 'immensely proud' of Roan.

She said: "We're very proud of him. He did seven fights one after another without stopping so he's done amazingly well."

Comic Manford brings his new tour to town hall

TV comic Jason Manford is to perform in Dudley next year, it has been revealed.

He will be bringing his new tour – Muddle Class – to Dudley Town Hall on April 27, 2018.

It is currently the only date the star has confirmed for the Birmingham and Black Country area and has been labelled a 'massive coup' by town hall bosses.

Peter Jordan, town halls and entertainment manager, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to welcome Jason Manford back to Dudley Town Hall.

"It is a massive coup for the borough to be able to attract acts of this standing. Jason is one of the finest comedians of his generation, and we're very lucky that he's decided to return to Dudley."

Tickets will go on sale from 10am tomorrow.

Manford is just one of a number of big names who will be performing at Dudley and Stourbridge town halls over the coming 12 months.

Other top acts lined up to perform include Jasper Carrott, Russell Kane, Paul Chowdhry, Doreen Tipton, Rich Hall, Jenny Eclair and Jethro.

Tickets for Jason Manford will cost £27.50 plus booking fees and will be available to buy from halls.co.uk or on 01384 812812.

Advertisement

SALE ENDS BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
SHOWROOM CLEARANCE
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

- SOFAS AND CHAIRS MADE TO ORDER - ANY SIZE
- FREE HOME DELIVERY
- FREE REMOVAL OF YOUR OLD BED
- LARGE SELECTION OF FABRIC AND LEATHER SUITES
- 2 & 3 SEATERS TO CLEAR FROM AN AMAZING £295 VARIOUS COLOURS AND DESIGNS

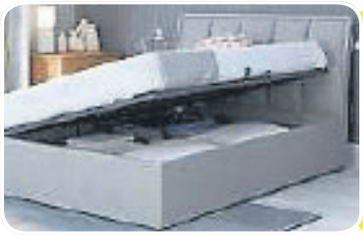
• SUITES • BEDS
• MATTRESSES • SOFAS
All reduced to a fraction of their normal price
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED
UP TO £1,000 PART EXCHANGE FOR YOUR OLD SUITE



3 SEATER SOFA WITH 2 RECLINER ACTIONS
£395



DINING TABLE & 4 CHAIRS TO CLEAR
£395
AVAILABLE IN ACACIA WOOD MATCHING PIECES ALSO AVAILABLE



Ottoman Beds
from £299
Odd Bases & Mattresses To Clear
from £69



BRITISH MADE FOR QUALITY
Made to Measure
Recliners and Riser Recliners Available
Your chair, designed to fit you from £495
Matching sofas available
1000 fabrics, 100 leathers to choose from

Established 1982
Dreamworld furniture

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU
Tel: 01384 295660
Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm | Closed Easter Sunday
LARGE FREE CAR PARK

Three Piece Suites, Chairs, Beds, Carpets, Dining and Bedroom Furniture



Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association



Members were joined by Kidderminster Cadets on their march through the town



It was a proud moment for many taking part

Easy Floors
The Flooring Experts

FANTASTIC OFFERS ON
WOOD AND LAMINATE FLOORING

7 mm Heavy Domestic Clic Laminate
From £4.98m² inc VAT

8 mm Heavy Domestic 4-V-Groove Laminate
From £6.99m² inc VAT

12 mm Domestic & Commercial Use 4-V-Groove Laminate
From £9.98m² inc VAT

VISIT OUR STORE FOR MANY OTHER OFFERS



Easy Floors, 202 Dudley Road,
Halesowen B63 3NR • 0121 585 8348
(Next to The Big Pet Store)
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am - 7pm,
Sat 9am - 6pm, Sun 10am - 4pm

Marching ex-soldiers show pride in parade

SCORES of proud former soldiers from the Black Country and Staffordshire marched through Kidderminster as they exercised their freedom of the town, possibly for the last time.

The parade, organised by the Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association, saw more than 100 decorated former and current soldiers march through the town's streets.

They were accompanied by the Tenbury Wells Town Band.

However, it could be the last time the association parades around the town due to the ages of the former soldiers, as many are well into their 80s.

The start of Saturday's event saw the soldiers fall in at Batemans yard car park at 11.30am before heading off on the march around the town half an hour later.

By Jack Averty

Cheer

As they made their way along the route, they were met by dozens of residents who lined the streets to take pictures and cheer.

Some of the former soldiers from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Mercian Volunteers, who make up the regimental association, had travelled from as far as America to be at the parade.

Ted Rowley, aged 74, a former platoon sergeant and founding member of the association, said: "The parade went great. There were people lining the streets, applauding and cheering us on. It will be the last parade like this for a lot of our members. Unless another association organises an event like this then I think we will be sticking to the poppy day parade and other similar events."

Mick Whiten, a former solider who attended the parade, added: "Thanks to all those that organised such a fantastic parade, it was really good to see such a lot of 'old' faces. A special thanks for making the effort must go to those that travelled long distances to be there."

As well as exercising the freedom of Kidderminster, the parade also marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers and the disbandment of the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

Kidderminster resident Vic Bozward said: "I enjoyed seeing everyone who served with the Mercian Regiment. The weather was great and the parade and drumhead service went very well. Thanks to everyone who helped to put it together."

The Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association, which has around 500 members, was formed in 1967.

New centre opens to improve health

A new wellness centre aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Dudley has opened its doors this week.

The Albion House Surgery in Brierley Hill will be home to the centre and aims to create a place to give people the confidence to manage and improve their own health wellbeing.

The centre will offer a variety of alternative services to patients including bereavement advice, Citizens Advice and guidance from the Alzheimer's Society.

There will also be access to courses to help people who do not always need to see a GP and to educate them about other sources of help and support available to them.

Councillor Serena Craigie said: "We welcome the new centre, especially in Brierley Hill as it's one of the main areas in Dudley people travel to.It's fantastic news and will bring good services to the area."

Rebuild sees Hickory's rising from the ashes



Building work on Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath after the original restaurant was gutted by fire

A RESTAURANT completely destroyed in a blaze is well on the way to being rebuilt.

Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath will reopen in around three months, after a fire gutted the site due to a fault in a refrigeration unit.

The restaurant in Kidderminster Road saw 15 firefighters tackle the flames, with around 100 firefighters on the scene at the height of the fire in August.

It had only opened in November 2015 on the site of the famous Kingsfisher Club. The venue was demolished following the fire, with only the white fencing from the former restaurant remaining.

Ward councillor Dave Tyler said people living near by were looking forward to the reopening.

Business

He said: "A lot of the people in the village are really overwhelmed and cannot wait for it reopen.

"It'll also bring more jobs to the area and more business so it's really good news that it's planning to come back.

"They're building it at an incredible rate and I'm looking forward to it opening again." Guests in the 22 rooms at the Kingfisher restaurant and hotel complex next door were evacuated when the fire broke out.

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were joined by 13 more appliances as firefighters battled the blaze at the barbecue-style restaurant.

But now the restaurant has proposed a relaunch date of July.

A Hickory's spokesman said: "We are delighted to confirm that due to the overwhelming level of support they have received from the local area, they will be rebuilding the restaurant and work is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2017."

De Rosa INSTALLATIONS LTD
Est 1997

or call us on 01902 897111

Check us out online at
www.derosawindows.co.uk
www.derosaroofing.co.uk

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CONSERVATORY ALL YEAR ROUND WITHOUT GOING SOLID



WINDOWS DOORS SARNAFIL ROOFING SWISH FASCIAS



Unit 42, Wombourne Enterprise Park,
Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, WV5 0AL

Like us on Follow us on Follow us on
Not in conjunction with any other offer. Offers for a limited time only.



Dudley Chronicle Thursday, April 27, 2017

Take some vintage style outside for the summer

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES



with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



WE know summer is well and truly on its way when we start to sell vintage garden items in our auctions – and that begin recently with the sale of a impressive Georgian sundial.

The bronze sundial, made by Thomas Heath around 1750, would once have graced the grounds of a stately home and it sold for several thousands pounds – which admittedly is beyond the average person's budget!

However, 'lesser' antique sundials and some excellent reproductions won't break the bank and certainly add some vintage style to any garden.

In fact, some of the really nice copies look so good they can easily be mistaken for the real thing – I once bought a stone trough, probably made in the 20th century, to put outside a cottage . . . and when I removed it I got a nasty letter from the powers that be telling me the trough was ancient and had been a drinking trough for horses in days of yore!

All kinds of vintage garden items and furniture sell well in the saleroom at this time of year, from wooden benches to birdbaths. And you don't have to stick to traditional ideas – butler's sinks, chimney pots and old tin baths make great planters and I've seen a number of vintage bicycles used as stands for trailing plants.



Some people love to use antique garden implements, such as old hoes and even heavy metal rollers, for outside decoration to add to the vintage look.

Farming bits and pieces are also popular, look out for hay racks, troughs and wooden sheep-dip boxes.

You can find some nice vintage patio sets in the saleroom but also very attractive pub tables and chairs which can look just as good.

Of course, everything depends on the size of your garden. With large gardens you can really make a statement – we recently sold a huge gazebo – and for smaller gardens and courtyards you can go for terracotta pots and even 'outdoor' mirrors to make a space look bigger.

As with all vintage items, check the condition before you buy – and allocate a set budget before setting out for the saleroom in case you end up with a very expensive Georgian sundial!

Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm. The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Bridgnorth on Tuesday, June 6. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday.

Adding style despite restrictions of workwear



Trendy and complying with standards

WE are working on a large project for one of our clients at the moment, it is a very different brief to previous ones as they require the garments to meet all the British standards of compliance but also be as trendy as possible.

Zip-in bodywarmers, fleece and softshell resemble something you would wear to the gym or the local hostelry… if, of course, you were comfortable wearing hi-vis yellow! The jackets are shaped and stylish and the pockets are required to be engineered to lift a mobile phone as the flap is opened, grip and hold an earphone cable and comfortably carry an i-pad internally.

It is only a few years ago that workwear would have consisted of the simplest, cheapest items with a large printed logo, uncomfortable to wear, quick to wear out and very unsuitable for purpose. They were a "nod" to employer's requirements, safety at work.

Things have changed dramatically, compliance is now of the utmost importance and it is now essential to ensure your employees can be seen, are protected from the environment and any dangers at work and meet any health and safety requirements.

STYLE FOCUS



with Janet Timmis

The restrictions created by compliance mean it is difficult to add the design features to please the wearer but with clever shape and fit it makes the wearer happier during their working day.

Sleeve articulation allowing lift in the arms, elbow darts allowing comfort in movement and hoods that adjust to increase visibility and protection. There is much to be considered before design detail is even contemplated and the brief from the client is the very least of our worries.

There are many thousands of British and International standards (BS and ISO). The International Organisation for Standardisation state that "documents are created that provide requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics that can be used consistently to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose".

They help with the safety of children's clothing, protection against the elements and impact, visibility, fabric stability, abrasion resistance and harness security to name only a few. The garments have to be tested and approved before they can be sold and ensure that the wearer feels safer in their working environment.

I love a challenge and this sort of project keeps the brain working overtime, it is a pleasure to develop something that will be comfortable to wear in a challenging environment and look good at the same time.

Not all workwear meets the exacting standards of this particular project but there is a definite move towards style and practicality.

Next time you put on the jacket your employer has given you to wear, consider the components factored into it and even if it is not perfect it is a step in the right direction of effectiveness and appearance.

Visit www.jflexclusive.com, www.jfl-garmentsolutions.co.uk

Follow: jfllifeandloves on tumblr



The M&S Collection with lace up ballet pumps



Topshop Gina V-Cut Flare block heel shoes



The glamorous option – Hobbs Carmen dress with Zoe block heel sandals

Good footwear a shoe-in for your perfect look



Yellow in vogue – Amanda Holden

FROM furry sliders to cute kitten heels, there's a shoe to suit every desire this season.

Report by Katie Wright

Spring sees the return of a few footwear favourites of yore (well, if the Noughties can be described as "yore"), but with a 2017 twist.

From practical flats to showy sandals, it's the heel height (or lack thereof) that's setting the style agenda now, for daywear and after dark.

If it's on-trend accessories you're after, these are the shoes to choose this season...

SLIDE RULES

Part Gucci, part Fenty for Puma and 100 per cent cool – fluffy pool sliders are the only kind of fur you'll want to wear come summer. Team with your with faded Nineties denim or sport luxe separates.

:: Dune Luau Sliders, £50 (www.dunelondon.com)

:: Office Snuggle Fluffy Pink Faux Fur Mule Sandals, £48 (www.office.co.uk)

BALLET MOVES

Having faded in the fashion firmament somewhat, the ballet flat is back, but this time, Kate Moss' mid-Noughties staple comes complete with ankle ribbons.

Show off your dancing slippers with cropped trousers, culottes or a calf-skimming midi skirt.

:: M&S Collection Pure Cotton Embroidered Flute Sleeve Blouse, £29.50; Limited Edition Cotton Rich Gingham Ruffle Midi Skirt, £35; Autograph Lace-Up Ballet Pumps, £45 (www.marksandspencer.com)

:: Dune Handsel Nude Ribbon Tie Up Ballerina Shoes, £65 (www.dunelondon.com)

:: Topshop Kisses Pearl Ballerina Pumps, £39 (www.topshop.com)

PURR-FECT PICKS

Love them or hate them, kitten heels are back in a big way.

How to wear the mini-stiletto now? Keep it modern with sleek, shiny mules, or look out for tie and bow detailing (another big spring trend).

:: Wallis Silver Kitten Heel Mules, £38 (www.wallis.co.uk)

:: Office Martini Point Mule Silver Mirror Kitten Heels, £65 (www.office.co.uk)

BLOCK PARTY

The Sixties-style square heel has had a catwalk-inspired makeover, and now the flared block heel is the one to be seen in.

From suede glove shoes to summery sandals, these chunky twosomes are equal parts cool and comfy.

:: Hobbs Carmen Dress, £159; Ochre Obi Belt, £69; Pimlico Mini Bag, £149; Zoe Block Heel Sandals, £149 (www.hobbs.co.uk)

:: Miss Selfridge Cody Mule Sandals, currently reduced to £20.30 from £29 (www.missselfridge.com)

:: Topshop Gina V-Cut Flare Block Heel Shoes, £56 (www.topshop.com)

GET THE LOOK

Call it the Beauty And The Beast effect. Fashion has gone mad for yellow dresses and they're all over the red carpet too.

Case in point – Amanda Holden was radiant at the recent Olivier Awards, in a floaty, chiffon one-shoulder gown.

Be the Belle of your next ball (or wedding) in this Little Misstress lemon yellow maxi.

:: Little Mistress Lemon Jewel Waist Maxi Dress, £78 (www.little-mistress.com)

BUY IT NOW

Let's be honest, charity fashion collaborations aren't always that appealing.

But the Hype x War Child range of hoodies, tees and sweatshirts effortlessly retains the streetwear label's urban edge.

The four-piece collection is out now, with at least £15 per item going to the charity, which helps protect children living in the world's most dangerous war zones.

Prices start from £25 (www.justhype.co.uk).

:: Hype x War Child Border Floral Tee, £25 (www.justhype.co.uk)

Complex is sold off

A DUDLEY warehouse and showroom complex on the market for £1 million has been sold to a Birmingham developer, landlord and investment agent.

The price Western Trading Group paid is not being disclosed. The company says it intends to relocate one of its existing tenants to the site but has not identified the new occupier.

The property is a self-contained warehouse with a showroom, offices, yard areas and on-site parking and has a prominent road-front location in King Street.

The site also benefits from secondary access from Abberley Street.

Shed fraudster who used eBay is relieved to have avoided jail term

A FRAUDSTER who conned customers out of hundreds of pounds by promising them sheds which were never delivered has avoided prison.

Steven Corbett, of Tack Farm Road, Stourbridge, advertised his Cradley Heath shed-making business via online site eBay and told customers he could only accept payment up front.

When the sheds never arrived he made excuses, including that a relative had died, and assured them deliveries would take place. There were at least 10 victims of Corbett's scam, with individual payments as large as £2,090.

He was bombarded with phone calls and emails by disgruntled customers when the sheds never turned up. Trading standards were alerted and visited Corbett's business, Pine Sheds.

Corbett was visibly relieved as he was given a suspended jail sentence at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday.

The court heard how customers agreed to pay for sheds on the understanding Corbett call to arrange a delivery date. One out-of-pocket customer travelled three hours from Hertfordshire to try and track Corbett down but found his unit deserted. Workers from a neighbouring business informed him several others had also tried to find him.

The majority of the payments made to Corbett ranged between £500 and £800. In total he received £7,375, which he has now been ordered to pay back.

Knowing

Mr Robert Cowley, prosecuting, said: "It quickly became apparent to this defendant that when he was taking orders and taking full payment in advance for the sheds he did so knowing he would not be able to complete the orders."

Corbett ripped off customers over a six-month period from January 2015.

Mr Cowley told how the rogue trader gave 'excuse after excuse' to one buyer. On one occasion he said he had a dying relative."

Corbett pleaded guilty to 10 counts of fraud by false representation and was given an eight-month prison term, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to pay back £7,375 as compensation. Recorder Geoffrey Kelly told him: "People lost money they worked hard for."

Mr Benjamin Williams, defending, said: "The defendant said he didn't maliciously go out to rip anyone off but go himself into a hole he couldn't get out of."

Getting into the swing of things

SWINGAMAJIG is coming to Digbeth on Sunday, April 30, from the team behind Shambala Festival and curated by Birmingham's own Electric Swing Circus.

Music, dance, cabaret, art installations, street food and more feature at the one day urban festival that opens at 2pm and has an after party that follows until the early hours.

Various performing troupes will appear, showcasing circus tricks, magic, dance and burlesque. Music including electro swing, bassline, gypsy punk, swing, jazz and rockabilly will feature at various venues.

New to 2017 is the Swingamajig Bazaar, a vintage/craft market with street food under the railway arches – you don't need to buy a ticket for Swingamajig to visit the market, from 11am to 6pm.

For further details see swingamajig.co.uk website.

Zoo-ming in on penguins



Section leader Nicola Wright with a Humboldt penguin at Dudley Zoo

ZOO keepers in the Black Country are raising awareness for an endangered breed of penguin to coincide with World Penguin Day this week.

Bird keepers at Dudley Zoo will be raising money for Sphenisco, which works in Chile and Peru to save the Humboldt penguin from extinction.

The attraction has a large group of Humboldt penguins, which is considered endangered in Peru and vulnerable in Chile.

Fundraising activities took place on Sunday where visitors were able to find out more about the species.

People also had the opportunity to take part in penguin-themed games for the chance to win an adoption of one of the newly-hatched chicks. Section leader, Nicola Wright, said: "We had fun and games to help get our important conservation message out about the plight of Humboldt penguins, of which we have one of the largest captive colonies in the UK."

Humboldt penguins are found along the South American coastline in areas reached by the Humboldt current - a cold ocean current that runs north along the west of the South American continent.

The aim of World Penguin Day, which falls on April 25 is to raise awareness of the growing threat to the species

The date is also is significant as it is usually the time that penguins begin their annual northward migration in the wild.

Bird dies after being shot in act of cruelty

A HERON has died after being shot by an air gun in what has been described as a 'deliberate act of cruelty'.

The injured bird was found near a stream that runs through gardens in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, on Easter Sunday.

He was rescued by RSPCA inspector Suzi Smith who took him to Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre, near Tewkesbury. An x-ray showed injuries to his leg had been caused by air gun pellets.

The RSPCA said the heron was so badly injured he was put to sleep to prevent further suffering.

The charity today called for tighter laws and training for those using air guns.

Ms Smith said: "It is very distressing to think people take pleasure in causing harm to these beautiful and defenseless birds. This appears to have been a deliberate act of cruelty, which caused the heron to tragically lose its life."

Charities bag £500

MORE than £500 has been raised for charity by a supermarket.

The money was raised for three charities during a weekend by Sainsbury's in Amblecote. Volunteers from Oxfam and Hall Green Retired Greyhound Trust were at the branch holding a collection, while footballers from Kewford Eagles West, helped customers pack their bags.

Kevin Healy, store manager, said: "We hope our support will really make a difference to the charities."

Serenity
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
Call us on 01384 279 997



ONE CALL BRINGS YOU ALL OF THIS

- Provide a full design and project management service if required
- Take your ideas and make them a reality
- So please come and meet the team at Serenity
- All trades are carried out by our team. This includes, building, tiling, plastering, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and gas. No job is too big or too small for us. No gimmicks, just quality goods and quality service.

Example Job
Choice of 9 Door Panels
Colours and styles
7 Units worktops and upstands, oven, hob and extractor
sink and tap
Cornice, Pelmet and End Panels
Fully Fitted £3995

Stallings Lane | Kingswinford | DY6 7AP
www.serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk

New water play area will make a splash at park

FAMILIES visiting Mary Stevens Park this summer will have a 'splashing' time with a new water play facility.

Dudley Council has undertaken a recent programme of improvements at the Stourbridge park following a successful application for £2.6 million of Heritage Lottery Fund money.

Savings made throughout the project means there are sufficient funds remaining to purchase the new equipment and work will get under way at the beginning of May to remove the existing splash play area, which has been on site for 18 years.

The new facility is expected to be finished in July with the main area to include water jets, cannons, a spray loop and a flower water feature.

A toddler area with water jets and a smaller water feature will also be installed.

Alan Lunt, strategic director for place, said: "This work was not part of the original Heritage Lottery Fund restoration programme but families have told us that they would like to see this improvement and the savings made mean we are now able to include it.

"We are confident that this feature will be particularly popular with families visiting the park during the warmer months of the year."

The new facility will cost £140,000. It will benefit from fresh rubber surfacing, a new control box with state of the art pumps.

Fundraiser ready to take on 100-mile hike

A MAN is hiking 100 miles across the English countryside to raise funds for a wildlife charity.

Dan Hall, aged 38 from Brierley Hill, will be taking part in the Cotswold Challenge – a trek from Bath to Cheltenham – in aid of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and hopes to raise at least £400.

Mr Hall said: "Raising money by hiking through some beautiful countryside seems to be the perfect way to help me and wildlife – although 100km is a rather daunting prospect." The hike takes place in July.



The Firewalk at the Black Country Living Museum



Roger Gray, aged 57, takes it in his stride



Daredevils feel the heat as they briefed ahead of the challenge



The burning coals are prepared for the challenge



Hot to trot – all smiles for this participant



There's no smoke without fire – the challenge was a huge success

Daredevils hot foot it for funds

DOZENS of daredevils strode over burning coal in bare feet to raise money for charity.

Around 70 people took part in the Firewalk at the Black Country Living Museum.

Each participant paid £35 to walk over the flaming material, which burned for more than 370 degrees Celsius (700 Fahrenheit).

The money raised will go to the museum and charity Acorns Hospice.

Participants described feeling nervous before taking part but were left on a high once they faced the challenge.

Father and son Roger, aged 57, and Jordan Gray, 17 from Lichfield, were among those to take part. They were raising money for Acorns.

Jordan, who has volunteered for the charity for three years, said: "It was great fun, we enjoyed it, Walking up to the coal, it felt very hot. But being briefed beforehand helped." They were part of part of a group of people who worked at National Express.

Roger added: "We set a fundraising target of £700 in total, but we already met that on the day."

Several metres of burning coal was laid out in two rows in the boat docks area of the museum.

Organisers lit the fire and sprayed it with chemicals before gathering participants around the flames to explain safety precautions. Daredevils then lined up in two rows, and strode along the burning coal to the cheers of the crowd.

The event, held on April 20, used coal to link to the industrial heritage of the Black Country.

It was set up in partnership with charity Acorns.

Lynda Hadley, events co-ordinator at Acorns, said: "Walking over fire is without doubt one of the most thrilling and extreme things you can do. Whilst it'll be seriously scary stuff, professionals will be on hand to make sure everyone has the best possible time.

"We rely on events like this to raise the majority of the £10 million needed every year to continue providing our care."

Katy Price, development Manager at the Black Country Living Museum, added: "We're delighted to host such a special event to raise money for such great causes."

SALES EVENT
28 April – 7 May 2017



£500 FREE FUEL | WITH A NEW VAUXHALL*
IN ADDITION TO OUR OTHER GREAT OFFERS

Visit your local Vauxhall Retailer between 28 April – 7 May to find out more.

Dudley Motor Company

www.dudleymotorco.uk

Trindle Road
Dudley
01384 454100

47 High Street
Stourbridge
01384 447970

Dudley Road
Halesowen
0121 503 0001

High Street
Kingswinford
01384 288333

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions: 373 – 89g/km.#

*Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R, Corsa Diamond, ADAM Jam, Corsavan and Combo. £500 Free Fuel is not given in cash. Offer available on eligible, selected new vehicle orders from 28 April – 7 May 2017 and registered by 31 May 2017. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units. All other customers are excluded. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent or contact your local Retailer for details. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. General Motors UK Limited t/a Vauxhall Motors reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to press.

Let's hang on to the vintage Valli

REVIEW

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Genting Arena, Birmingham

THERE is a scene towards the end of Jersey Boys – the musical about Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons – where the lead character says: "Like that bunny with the batteries I just keep going and going and going."

And so it comes to pass as the real Frankie Valli is still performing in his 83rd year.

He doesn't bound about on stage like the Duracell rabbit, at his age you wouldn't expect him to. But, Oh what a night!

Valli cannot hit the high notes like he used to, but he was given an early chance to show off the falsetto with which he made his name as Dawn came four songs in.

Video

Of course, Jersey Boys brings to light songs that are not readily associated with Valli, like Stay, Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You and Silence Is Golden and all featured here, the latter with help from two of his Four Seasons' backing singers

There were times, however, when it appeared he had too much helium intake.

After promising Birmingham he would have even more fun than the last time he was there, the concert began with a historical video montage and ended with pretty much everyone on their feet. There were young and old in the audience, too, indicative of the impact his music has had over the years.



Even in his 83rd year Frankie Valli just loves to perform

And we had a great view of proceedings looking straight ahead towards the stage.

My Eyes Adored You had the glow sticks out early on in front of us. There was also a Frank Sinatra tribute with Under My Skin and a medley of 60s material with Spanish Harlem, My Girl and Groovin'.

Beggin' and Grease were among the big hits that followed before the aforementioned Can't Take My Eyes Off You had everyone up and the finish came with the four big number ones, namely Sherry, Walk Like A Man. Big Girls Don't Cry and Rag Doll with Let's Hang On to finish.

Valli may be going strong at the age of 82, but you know he won't last forever.

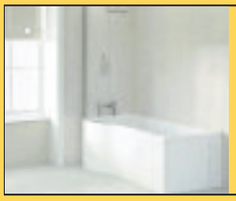
In the meantime, let's hang on to the pleasure he has given his millions of adoring fans in the last six decades.

MARK SHIPP

BATHROOM & PLUMBING STORES
your local trade and retail merchants



RIO BASIN MONO INC. CLICKER WASTE
£9.99
INC. VAT



1700MM P SHAPE COMPLETE BATH WITH SCREEN AND SIDE PANEL
£199.99
INC. VAT

1050 GLOSS WHITE WC BASIN FURNITURE SET INCLUDES PAN, CISTERN AND SEAT
£199.99
INC. VAT



BATH SCREEN
£39.99
INC. VAT





THERMOSTATIC BAR VALVE, COMPLETE WITH RISER KIT AND FAST FIX BRACKETS
£49
INC. VAT



COMPLETE BATHROOM SUITES FROM
£239
INC. VAT

Friendly knowledgeable staff here to help

BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
UNITS 11/12 MOUNT PLEASANT
QUARRY BANK,
BRIERLEY HILL DY5 2YS
01384 74949

OPENING HOURS
7.30 am-5.00 pm MON-FRI
8.00 am-5.00 pm SATURDAY
CLOSED SUNDAYS

• AMPLE PARKING
• FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
• SPECIALIST ADVICE
• HUGE STOCKS

UP TO 40% OFF

Choices
WINDOWS, CONSERVATORIES & ORANGERIES

A++

A room for all Seasons Plus 'Free Upgrade' to 6 chambered 'Energy Plus' Windows keeping the heat locked in during the winter months



FULL SERVICE AVAILABLE
In House Architect we can provide

- Orangeries
- Conservatories
- Windows/Doors
- Bi-Folding Doors
- Triple Glazing
- Rooftrim
- Sash Windows
- Conservatory Refurbishment





BRAND NEW ALLUMINIUM RANGE OF WINDOWS AND DOOORS



BRAND LEADING PRODUCTS TRIED, TESTED & TRUSTED

Orangeries Conservatories Windows/Doors
Bi-Folding Doors Triple Glazing Rooftrim
Sash Windows Conservatory Refurbishment

01902 884581
100 Sedgley Road, Dudley DY1 4NG

THE MAKEOVER COMPANY
SINCE 1982

THE ORIGINAL & The Best KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY
Transform your kitchen without the hassle and cost of a full kitchen replacement.
SUPERB CHOICE SUPERB VALUE
SUPERB SERVICE
THE LATEST DESIGNS FOR DOORS • HANDLES • WORKTOPS
TAPS • APPLIANCES • BEDROOMS

BRAND NEW 2017 WINTER SALE OFFER...
FREE FITTING*
CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

DELIVERING QUALITY AND UNRIVALLED VALUE

- Avoid waste, retain your cabinets, save money and be kind to the environment
- Less upheaval and hassle and mess of a rip-out
- From a simple door or worktop change to a complete kitchen makeover
- Our buying power means one thing - unbelievable prices & deals for you!
- Hundreds of styles & finishes of doors & worktops
- Fast, immaculate installations by our experienced skilled workforce
- 5 years guarantee across all workmanship
- Over 30 years of skilled experience in the trade

WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN MOBILE SHOW ROOM LET US COME TO YOU



Book an appointment today!

SAVE MONEY. SAVE TIME. SAVE HASSLE.
Lets Makeover!

TALK TO OUR FRIENDLY STAFF TODAY ON 01384 913969
or click www.themakeovercompany.co.uk
OR VISIT OUR SHOWROOM UNIT 22 ENTERPRISE TRADING ESTATE, PEDMORE RD, BRIERLEY HILL

*free fitting is a discount to the value of the installation

Walking football match in memory of father



James Bragg holds a picture of his father with players behind



Two walking footballers in action



Steve Bragg who died on holiday

A WALKING football tournament has been held in honour of a much-loved player who died suddenly.

The Steve Bragg Memorial Tournament featured eight walking football teams from all across the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

It was in honour of Tividale-born Steve Bragg, who passed away aged 51. Mr Bragg died suddenly while on holiday in Spain in April last year.

He was a keen footballer who had recently joined walking team Hartshill Stollers, based in Dudley, which organised Sunday's tournament in his honour.

Greatest

Among those in attendance at Summerhill School in Kingswinford for the six-a-side tournament was Mr Bragg's son James, daughter Rachel Foley and two-year-old granddaughter Ronnie.

James, aged 23, from Tividale, said: "He was the best dad in the world, the greatest man. He would give anything to anyone, he had a heart of gold."

James was competing on the day with Tividale side Old Studs, the team his father used to play for.

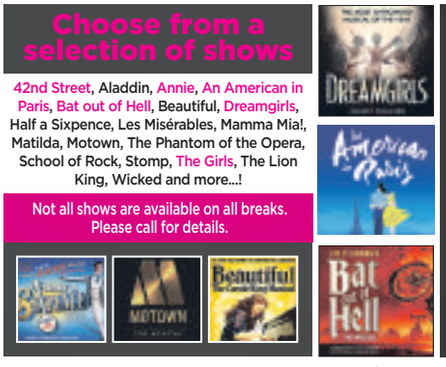
The team, made up of Steve's old friends and his son, made it through to the final but ultimately lost out to LPF88 of Leicestershire. Bob Haywood, the assistant manager of Hartshill Strollers, paid tribute to Steve.

He said: "Steve came down here only about the beginning part of last year so he was a new member of the club but a massively influential member. He was an extremely gifted player but he was also someone who was a great man."

Mark Grazier, the chairman of the club, said: "It was a wonderful tournament played in a sporting spirit."

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Your Chronicle in association with Omega ABTA The Travel Association
Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge

Choose from a selection of shows
42nd Street, Aladdin, Annie, An American in Paris, Bat out of Hell, Beautiful, Dreamgirls, Half a Sixpence, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Matilda, Motown, The Phantom of the Opera, School of Rock, Stomp, The Girls, The Lion King, Wicked and more...!
Not all shows are available on all breaks. Please call for details.



NOW INCLUDING GREAT NEW WEST END SHOWS TO CHOOSE FROM

Saturday Night London Theatre
Selected Saturday departures throughout 2017
Price Includes...
✓Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
✓A ticket for a Saturday evening performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection
✓Free time in London
2 days, by coach from £149.95pp
Quote Code: EWA292 View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/EWA292

London Theatre Weekend with Evening Meal
Selected Saturday departures throughout 2017
Price Includes...
✓Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course evening meal and full English breakfast ✓A show ticket for a Saturday matinee performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection ✓Free time in London
2 days, by coach from £159.95pp
Quote Code: AMP342 View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/AMP342

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.
For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165
OmegaHols @OmegaHols OmegaHols
Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782.
OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00 SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME
Complete Fireplace Packages from £499 (including fire)



STORAGE HEATERS NOW IN STOCK
For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)
Telephone 0121 559 9985 Like us on facebook
Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

WE NAILED IT!



Classified Advertising Works!
To advertise your business call 01902 319 191

Growing business is dearly a favourite with its customers



Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

Commercial feature

MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.



Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday. 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors ,sliding patio doors , french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is to small or to large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.

CONTACT US

Company: Carera Windows
Address: 24 Junction Road, Audnam, Stourbridge, DY8 4YJ
Phone: 01384 442490
Website: www.carerawindows.co.uk

Stunning conservatories that add real value to your property

Est 1989

CARERA WINDOWS
the recommended company

Secured by Design

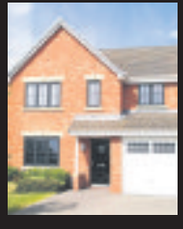
Top Quality A+ and A++ at great prices

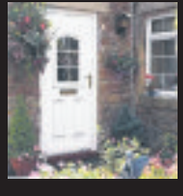
From £7995 including VAT



Any Conservatory
(Victorian / Edwardian / Garden Room)
includes:
Brick Built Base / Dwarfwall · Heating Systems · Electrics · Tiled Flooring · Window & Door Blinds

The Lugano Collection
Introducing the next generation of windows and doors. These world class products meet the highest standards of performance, that includes all the features that today's homeowners want, outstanding energy effeciency, sound insulation, superb security, easy maintenance and long life.

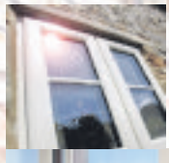




Introductory offer on this top quality premier product
4 WINDOWS AND 1 DOOR
From £1850 including VAT

Choose the best for your windows and doors.
Contact Carera now for more details.

Windows. Doors. Porches. Orangeries. Conservatories



FENSA Registered Company





Swish



Yale

Top Quality A Rated Products At Great Prices
Yale Locking Systems
Swish Window & Door Systems
No Deposit Required
Payment On Completion / Satisfaction
Full 10 Year Guarantee
28 Years Trading - Same Owner

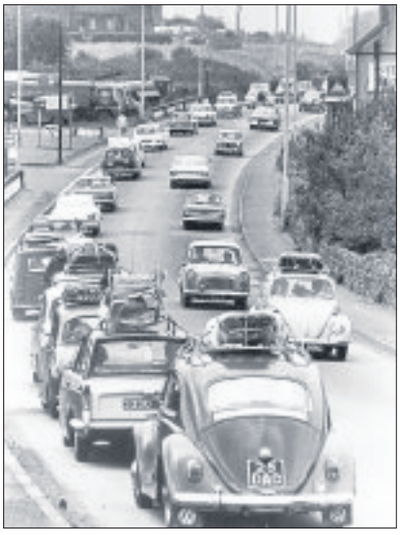
Ring the recommended Company NOW!

01384 442 490

CARERA WINDOWS

www.carerawindows.co.uk
Carera Showroom, 24 Junction Rd, Audman DY8 4YJ

Focus: Holidays



Queueing on the A5 at Ketley heading for the coast

Seaside holidays still have magic of times past

THERE is something magical about the sound of rain drumming on the thin metal roof of a caravan as you sit cosily inside, **writes Toby Neal**.

And I have never since seen insect life to match the big black monsters in our toilet, more properly a latrine – a deep hole in the loamy ground dug by my dad, with a hessian sack rigged in front to protect my mum's modesty. Oh, what she had to put up with!

Sometimes we would drive past Butlins at Pwllheli, a place of dreams for little children like us with all its on-site entertainments. We never went.

It was always, always, a caravan holiday, with a satellite tent or two.

With miles of golden sands, stunning scenery, and weather you can rely on – not necessarily in the way you would like – there is nothing like a seaside holiday in Wales.

And all on Shropshire's doorstep.

What can Tenerife or Majorca offer that Wales can't? Well, we all know the answer to that one, but it is only in the last few decades that the lure of the sun has tempted holidaymakers abroad in large numbers.

Before cheap flights and package holidays, ordinary people simply could not afford such an adventure, and looked closer to home. Go back not all that many decades before that, and ordinary people didn't go to Wales for a break either, at least not in any numbers, although sea bathing became fashionable in the second half of the 18th century after King George III made a number of visits to Weymouth to "take the sea air".

A number of embryonic resorts sprang up and the well-to-do could enjoy them, while the masses stayed at home. The reason was simple. Working people didn't have paid holidays, and even if they did, there would be no easy way to get to the Welsh coast.

As with so many other things, it was the Victorians who led the way. Once the railways forged through the mountains to the Welsh coast, a whole new world opened up and a tradition of going to the seaside for summer holidays was born.

The tourists came by the trainload – the first train to Barmouth brought more than 1,000. Coastal towns and villages were transformed, with boarding houses and hotels full up during the season.

Those who took a dip in the sea took their lives in their hands. They might have an encounter with raw sewage. That would be survivable, but not so getting out of your depth in an age in which not many people were able to swim. In the summer, the factories would have the same shutdown periods every year, prompting a huge mass exodus to the seaside by the workers.

The Caravan Club was formed as early as 1907, although they were not caravans as we know them.

There was a rise in popularity in the 1920s, with mass-produced caravans which could be towed by cars, and the 1930s brought the advent of the "streamlined" shape.

Cheap

In the post-war period caravans were used as cheap emergency housing, but it was not long before caravan and camping sites were springing up, offering cheap holidays on the coast, while making an impact on the environment at the same time. There was the rise too of the holiday camps such as Butlins and Pontins. Opened in March 1947, Butlins at Pwllheli eventually catered for up to 8,000 holidaymakers. It closed in 1996.

For those for whom the beach and the sea are not enough, there are those added attractions to make children's eyes light up. The fair, amusement arcades and in some of the large places you might get a pier and donkey rides. All those gaudy seaside shops selling buckets and spades too.

Expectations and standards may have changed, but today on summer days the beaches are still packed and the towns are all a-bustle. Not many will have arrived by train or by coach or bus. Overwhelmingly, people go by car. As Shropshire is on a main route into Wales, that meant big traffic jams on the A5 in the 1960s and 1970s and beyond, although the M54 and A5 dual carriageway have eased some of these pinch-point problems.

But for the larger seaside towns which bought in to the summer holiday experience wholesale – places like Blackpool – there is a sense that time has moved on, and they are trying to reinvent themselves. A few years ago, poor Rhyl was described as "down at heel and depressing" and "a refuge for the unemployed, dropouts, and drug addicts." Yet Welsh coast towns such as Aberdovey keep their unspoilt charms, and continue to draw large numbers from Shropshire and the Midlands. They go back again and again, and some lucky folk have year-round caravans by the sea to which they will pop for regular short breaks.

The coastal path is popular, and Midlanders have snapped up second homes in the area, sending prices up and pricing out the locals.

BEST OF BRITISH IS BACK

Report by Mark Andrews

DONKEY rides along sandy beaches, crowds of children mesmerised by Punch and Judy. Youngsters with buckets and spades clambering from crowded trains.

If this all sounds like a reminiscence from the1960s or 70s, think again, because the Great British seaside resort is enjoying something of a renaissance.

Resorts like Llandudno, Barmouth, Aberdovey and Weston-super-Mare, once the favourite holiday destinations for people from the Midlands, are back in vogue.

A combination of the weak pound, a trend towards short-stay mini-breaks, and plain nostalgia has led to a boom in visitor numbers to old favourites, and millions of pounds are being invested in new attractions to bring these classic resorts bang up to date.

"I was speaking to some hoteliers in Llandudno at lunchtime, and they were telling me they were taking bookings right up to the middle of April next year," says George Brookes, destination manager for Conwy Council.

"They told me they have been busy since the end of January, even the quiet season is busy now."

He cites the four-star George Hotel on Llandudno's promenade, where construction workers are busy working on the roof.

"They are taking the roof off to build five new suites at the moment," he says.

"They will each have a spa bath on the balcony. They are scheduled to open towards the end of the season, late July or August, and they are already booked up beyond Christmas, and that is before they have even promoted them in full."

Travel marketing group Sojern found that, based on searches and bookings made between October 2016 and January 2017, there was a 23.8 per cent rise in British holidaymakers planning UK stays for summer 2017.

Shorter

On the other hand, the trips are getting shorter. The figures show that more than half of people holidaying at home are planning breaks of three days or less, an increase of 8.8 per cent on last year.

Wales seems to be doing particularly well. New figures showed that there were more than 100 million day visits to Wales in 2016, up by more than a third compared to the previous year. They are also spending more money – £10 more than three years ago, worth an extra billion pounds to the Welsh economy.

Jim Jones, managing Director of North Wales Tourism, said he is confident figures will continue to grow.

"People are beginning to recognise North Wales as a destination which has it all," he says.

"North Wales has got a lot to offer in abundance and within close proximity.

"Lots of businesses in North Wales are investing a lot of money to raise their game and to improve the quality of what they have on offer.

"There are also a number of good quality restaurants being developed, there is a plethora of good hotels and B&Bs, and with all of this happening and all promotions going on, it is one of the reasons North Wales is on people's radar.

Mr Brookes says the weak pound and people's nostalgia for their childhood are among the reasons why people are flocking to the traditional seaside resorts once more.

"You get a lot of parents brining their children to show them where they went when they were children," he says.

"I think people do come back on nostalgia trips. You also get busy parents, and it is the grandparents who are looking after the children.

"They might bring them to Llandudno for a mini-break."

Younger

Mr Brookes says there is a high return rate for short-break visitors.

"There are so many new things here, they find that three days are not enough," he says.

"You also get a lot of younger people coming on the train down from London.

And he says while the traditional attractions such as the donkey rides, Punch-and-Judy shows and deckchairs on the beach are still extremely popular, today's Llandudno offers other attractions which will come as a big surprise to people who have not visited since childhood.



Llandudno – North Wales is becoming increasingly popular and there is plenty to see and do



Barmouth – Business is booming, with more foreign visitors



Weston-super-Mare – Very popular with vistors from the Midlands

"We now have two gin distilleries, a whisky distillery, local breweries," he says, adding that there are also many new specialist restaurants and bars to add to the variety.

"If they come back they are still going to see the old things, but you can now go to a brewery for a visit, we have got the Alice in Wonderland Trail where you can download an app and see Alice in your hand."

Just six miles from the M5, Weston-super-Mare has long been a popular choice for Midlanders wanting a short break by the sea.

The latest available figures show that 7,993,000 people visited the North Somerset district during 2015.

"The vast majority of these, 7,453,000, are day visitors, with 540,000 staying visitors," says the council's Richard Turner.

Two years ago Weston received a boost from an unlikely quarter when maverick artist Banksy turned the town's former Tropicana lido into his satirical Dismaland theme park. The attraction, which included airport-style security, a rundown funfair and a pocket-money loan shop for children, attracted 150,000 visitors from around the world, and brought an estimated £20 million in to the town.

Since then, North Somerset Council has been working with fashion tycoon Wayne Hemingway to redevelop Tropicana as an arts and leisure venue. At the moment it is hosting the Funland funfair, and during the summer it will be the venue for the Hazy Days music festival.

Barmouth, another favourite with people from the West Midlands, has also been experiencing something of a boom, with a big rise in people taking spontaneous short breaks.

And that seems to be the driving force behind the Great British seaside revival. Whereas in years gone by people took just one holiday a year, spending a week or maybe a fortnight in a single place, today's more affluent lifestyles mean people will take several short holidays a year.

The resorts best able to capitalise on this, be it through luxury hotels, gourmet restaurants or major visitor attractions, could reap big rewards.

Currency

It is not just domestic tourists who are flocking to the traditional British seaside resorts.

In fact, Britons come second to Americans in terms of the number of people taking holidays in the UK.

International estate agents Colliers International has predicted the faltering currency will help the UK attract more business from overseas tourists, who are estimated to have spent £22.3 billion in the UK in 2016.

Visit Somerset's chief executive John Turner says that in an effort to capitalise on this market, the organisation spent 12 months photographing the whole county.

"Images sell both internationally and domestically," he says. "We were really pleased with how they came out."

Mr Turner says his website has enjoyed increased traffic since Brexit, with interest from countries like China, Columbia and Uruguay rising by more than 70 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Caravan and Motorhome Club has reported cracking booking figures for Easter.

The recent warm spell has inspired Brits to take advantage of a holiday on home turf it would seem, with the Caravan and Motorhome Club, reporting a 7.5 per cent increase in occupancy year on year for the Easter break.

Harvey Alexander, the club's director of marketing, said: "Easter 2017 is gearing up to be a bumper season for domestic tourism.

The recent great weather has certainly been helping bookings for UK breaks. With the summer just around the corner now is the perfect time to book a getaway right here at home.

"The Caravan and Motorhome Club has availability across the UK for those keen to explore the great outdoors from holidays all the way from the coast to the Highlands of Scotland to satisfy a range of hobbies including cycling, walking and fishing.

"You are guaranteed to find a break that will please all the family here."

The Ticket



COUNTDOWN TO JON'S GIG

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + LISTINGS + PUZZLES

Spring
Special Menu
£5 Main Menu
£7.50 for 2 Courses
£10 for 3 Courses
Conservatory Restaurant

Tie the knot for just £888

For more information
Call 01384 245704 or
email gm@qualityhoteldudley.co.uk

Quality Hotel Dudley, Birmingham Rd, Dudley DY1 4RN
01384 245700
www.qualityhoteldudley.co.uk

2K's Travel
Private Hire • Tours • Group Travel

www.2kstravel.co.uk
MORE TRIPS AVAILABLE
40, Louise Street, Gornal Wood, Dudley
01902 670387

DAY TRIPS

Saturday 29th April & Monday 1st May
VICTORIAN STEAM FAYRE
LLANDUDNO
Great Family Day Out!
Adults £17 (O.A.P £16 / Child £15)

Saturday 13th May
WELLESBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD
Adults £15 (O.A.P £14 / Child £12)

Saturday 20th May
LIVERPOOL
Adults £17 (O.A.P £16 / Child £15)

Thursday 25th May
WELL DRESSING AT
TISSINGTON & BAKEWELL
Adults £17 (O.A.P £16 / Child £15)

Saturday 27th May
TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL AT GLOUCESTER
Adults £17 (O.A.P £16 Child £15)
Wristband to view ships £7

Bank Holiday Monday 29th May
BARMOUTH
Adults £17 (O.A.P £16 / Child £15)

Tuesday 30th May
WESTON-SUPER-MARE
Adults £17 (O.A.P £16/Child £15)

Saturday 3rd June
YORK
Adults £17 (O.A.P. £16/Child £15)



PLEASE DONATE FURNITURE, BRIC-A-BRAC & CLOTHES



Your donations will be used to support bereaved military families with hands on practical support projects throughout the UK

Free collection

Charity number: 1157531

Please phone **0121 525 0973**

Unit 1 34/36 Carters Green, West Bromwich, B70 9LW

The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

- 5 day service from 13 May and all through June
- Extra trains on the 2 Bank Holidays and the Vintage Weekends
- Free parking, children's play area, cosy tearoom and shops

STEAM THROUGH LOVELY SCENERY IN MAY







"Rain or shine, A great day out"

BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, LOVELY FLOWERS, HEATED CARRIAGES AND A COSY TEA ROOM.

For our full timetable, more information or to book on line, please go to our website

www.wllr.org.uk

or call 01938 810441

STOURBRIDGE VINTAGE MEMORABILIA AND COLLECTORS FAIR

SUNDAY 30 APRIL 10AM TO 4PM

Advertising Materials, Autographs, Breweriana, Cinema, Coins, Ephemera, Vintage Radios, Luggage, Original Artwork, Postcards, Cigarette Cards, Toys, Theatre, Railways, Vintage Tools, Vinyl Records, Vintage Clothing and Watches.

Admission £2 – Children under 16 free

The Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge, DY8 4LU

For further information call 07971 624627

ALL PROFITS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

CHRONICLE

GET A REAL RESPONSE BY ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE

To advertise within the Dudley Chronicle call our experienced sales team on **01902 31 31 31** for more information

Good things come in small packages

He describes himself as an old man who wants to complain about the world but offer no solutions. Jon Richardson is the archetypal Grumpy Old Man – who is both grumpy and old before his time.

And the quietly sophisticated comedian will thrill fans when he headlines Birmingham's Hippodrome on Thursday as part of a national tour.

The show follows on from his recent TV hit, How to Survive the End of the World, for Channel 4, which was screened earlier this year.

He says: "The show was basically a small terrified man and his (would you believe it) even smaller and sometimes more terrified wife making a list of the things that they're scared might kill them, and then me going out and looking into them one by one, in the hope that I can come home and tell her, 'D'you know what, actually these are all irrational fears. We don't need to worry about any of them, and we can get on with our lives as normal'.

Jon was supposed to investigate major dangers, such as terrorism, but digressed into looking at the state of sausages and air pollution.

"I think I'm quite small, I don't think that helps. I feel quite small in a lot of ways. And I also think I'm right – we're all going to die of something, and there's just a lot of awful stuff in the world. I know that's not a particularly upbeat message, particularly coming from a comedian, but that's all that life is, really: Dealing with horrific stuff and trying to make it funny," he says.



Young fogey – Jon's old and grumpy before his time

DEMEANOUR

"I think it's more that it impacts on my demeanour. We've had a couple of incidents where we haven't done things as a family: We'll avoid built-up areas, so there's times when we actually have changed events. But it's more that sort of constant fear of things just stops you being the person you'd like to be. I don't know if this has come across in our dealings so far, but I wouldn't say I'm a particularly sparkling, upbeat person to talk to. I need all the help I can get, so if I could at least not have that voice in the back of my had that's always telling me to look left and look right and look up, and breathe through my nose and not through my mouth, so it's double-filtered, and all those silly things, maybe I'd be a better person if I could live more in the moment."

Jon's wife is also a worrier and they often end up freaking one another out, rather than winding each other up. There are times when it might be easier for both of them to simply go and see a psychiatrist.

"It would, but that would be a selfish route to my goal! It would sort me out, but I am in the role of giving to the wider community, and that's why I'm willing to film my investigations and put them on telly. You will see a genuine upsurge in the wellbeing of Britain. I would say, in the 2-3 weeks after this, there will be an immediate spike. And then in the six to 12 months afterwards we'll start to see the economic benefit of my work."

Jon found a number of weird scenarios in his new TV show. The strangest was meeting a man called Troy in Canada.

"What you often find with these documentaries is that everyone you meet could easily have a documentary all to themselves. People's lives are fascinating, and this documentary was certainly like that. Every issue we looked into, you could have spent not just one documentary, but a series looking into it. As for Troy – there should be some Kardashians or Osbornes-style documentary. For a start there should be a webcam on him all the time, just so that we can tune in and watch him for a bit. He gave us so much footage. He's not just invented an anti-bear suit.

"He's invented what he thinks is an improved Kevlar. It's a lighter-weight, more flexible, bullet and bomb-proof outfit for the army, which he's just made himself in his garage. He's created a chemical which he says if you drop it in an ocean, it'll separate the oil from the water, so that you can clear up the oil from an oil spill in minutes rather than weeks.

"He's invented his own laser, which he points at his own head daily, to regenerate hair growth. He's one of the most intriguing people I've met in my life. We filmed with him in the bear suit, testing it by driving through a brick wall. The hours in his laboratory were so intense. We could have just aired that unedited. And there's a genuine possibility that he's invented something that could change the world, and no-one's listening to him. Because he sounds so intense, you end up just shuffling out of the room, because he's just terrifying to be with. But undoubtedly he was the most intriguing, and if I was more of a Louis Theroux type, I'd definitely go back and do a full week with him."



I wouldn't say I'm a particularly sparkling, upbeat person to talk to

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**


Sheridan Smith in Funny Girl

Funny Girl Sheridan is ready for her star turn

THE West End's brightest star, Sheridan Smith, is coming to Birmingham Hippodrome to reprise her role as Fanny Brice following record-breaking success in hit musical Funny Girl in London.

Funny Girl brought global fame to Barbra Streisand 50 years ago, on Broadway, in the West End and then as a movie musical, and boasts such iconic songs as People and Don't Rain On My Parade.

It tells the story of Fanny Brice who went from burlesque to Broadway, becoming one of America's biggest stage and radio stars of the 1920s and 30s.

Michael Mayer's revamp of the 1964 show features revisions by Harvey Fierstein of Isobel Lennart's original book, and of course retains the songs by Julie Styne and Bob Merrill.

Sheridan Smith won an Olivier Award for her starring role in Legally Blonde at the Savoy Theatre, and an Olivier for her dramatic role in Flare Path at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. In television she won a Bafta for her role in Mrs Biggs and praise for playing Cilla, after originally catching the eye in Gavin & Stacey and Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps.

Funny Girl is at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, May 8-13. For tickets visit www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Funny Girl will visit Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from July 24 to 29 with Natasha J Barnes as Brice. She got excellent reviews when sharing the role with Smith in the West End. The male lead role of Nick Arnstein will be played by Chris Peluso in Birmingham and by Darius Campbell in Wolverhampton. Campbell is now a major stage star after pop hits as Darius.

Rich pickings with American grouch



Rich Hall is rightly regarded as one of the funniest comedians to come out of the US in recent times.

And, as he is based in the UK most of the time, this country has, over the past three decades, had the benefit from his grouchy sense of humour.

Now we are about to enjoy more of his crotchety comedy, as he is on a nationwide tour with his new show Hoedown, coming to Stourbridge Town Hall on May 19 and Stafford Gatehouse on May 26.

The comedian, who has won both a Perrier (Edinburgh Comedy Festival) and a Barry (Melbourne International Comedy Festival) Award, is surely the funniest curmudgeon in The West (with apologies to Jack Dee and Romesh Ranganathan).

Rich's straight-talking and acerbic comedy leaves his targets reeling and his audiences in stitches. He sends up whichever country he is in, but perhaps reserves his most trenchant scorn for his native USA, and since the arrival of President Trump, he's got plenty to take aim at.

Rich, who has presented such BBC 4 documentaries as Rich Hall's Inventing the Indian and Rich Hall's Presidential Grudge Match, says he is excited to be performing live once again.

"I love the fact that when a live show is over, it's gone. It's happened, and it will never happen like that again. It can't be replicated. That's a great magical moment," he says

"In every single show, there are always two or three moments where I'm thinking, 'Wow, where did that come from?' You're constantly thinking on your feet."

One of the features of Rich's act is that he goes out of his way to find out about the town he is playing in and then improvise a song about it. "I try to tap into what is happening locally and address that musically.

"I like to do something custom-made every night. Once they realise you're not just trotting out your regular act, people think, 'He's made a real effort. He's on our side, so we're on his side'. Then you can take them anywhere."

Magical circus tale hits The Road



One of the masterpieces of cinema, Federico Fellini's 1957 Oscar-winner, La Strada (The Road), is brought to the stage in a new adaptation at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from May 8 to 13 as part of a UK tour.

La Strada tells the tender tale of wide-eyed Gelsomina (Audrey Brisson, pictured) who is sold to the brutish circus strongman Zampano but Il Matto, the tightrope walker, tries to rekindle her broken spirit. Visit birmingham-rep.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Quality of Mersey sound at Sunflower

Psychedelic pop with a Scouse flavour will be heard in Birmingham city centre when The Sundowners and Edgar Jones & The New Jonses join forces at the Sunflower Lounge on Thursday, May 4. Both bands have new albums out on Liverpool label Skeleton Key Records.

As a teenager Jones was in a band with Merseyside legend Ian McCulloch of Echo & The Bunnymen – who has his own gig at Bilston's Robin 2 on May 9 – before forming cult oufit The Stairs, and working with Paul Weller and Johnny Marr.

The summery sounding Sundowners feature the vocals of Niamh Rowe and Fiona Skelly. Fiona and Alfie Skelly, on lead guitar, are siblings to The Coral's Skelly brothers. Birmingham band Cut Glass Kings will support at the Smallbrook Queensway venue.





SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 29

CHOICE



Tom Davis

Murder in Successville (BBC1, 11.25pm)

Originality – it's a rare thing these days. Programmes come and go, but if one happens to be a major success, other companies come along and try to replicate it with a twist on the same format. Sometimes it works, but more often than not, it falls by the wayside – not that such a thing stops anybody else having a go. So when something that is truly new comes along, we should all sit up and take notice – and doff our caps at its creators. Murder in Successville certainly falls into the 'original' category, which means the brains behind it, Avril Spary and Andy Brereton, need to stand up and take a bow. Tom Davis heads the cast as DI Sleet, a hapless yet lovable detective, and he's thrilled to be back in action.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Who Dares Wins.

6.10 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Pointless Celebrities. Jimmy Osmond, Kym Mazelle, Jedward, Nancy Lam, Sam Simmons, Ossie Ardiles and Guillem Balagué compete in an internationally themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show.

7.20 Doctor Who. Doctor and Bill visit Regency London to attend the last of the great frost fairs, but get wrapped up in a mystery when a sinister force stirs beneath the ice of the frozen Thames.

8.10 Casualty. Part two of two. Roy Ellison's relatives cause chaos in the ED, and Lily is rushed into the ward after being found unconscious in the car park.

9.00 BBC News; Weather.

9.20 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Agnes invites one last selection of celebrities into her home, as her Saturday night chat show concludes. This time, actor, singer and West End star Michael Ball pulls up a chair in Mrs Brown's sitting room, along with actress and one-time Strictly Come Dancing contestant Sunetra Sarker. Most Haunted presenter Yvette Fielding lends her ghost-hunting skills to Dermot and Buster during their Celebrity Haunted House tour; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Southampton v Hull City at St Mary's Stadium and Crystal Palace v Burnley at Selhurst Park.

11.25 Murder in Successville. Guest rookie Martin Kemp goes back in time to solve the very first murder in Victorian Successville, that of lady-of-the-night Rita Ora. Comedy, starring Tom Davis.

11.55 Film: Wild Hogs. (2007) Four middle-aged suburban friends try to rev up their lives on a cross-country motorbike trip. Comedy adventure, with John Travolta, William H Macy, Tim Allen and Martin Lawrence.

1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: On Moonlight Bay. (1951) **8.00 Film:** That's Entertainment Part Two. (1976) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.15** 60s Icons: Talking Pictures. **1.45 Film:** The Ipcress File. (1965) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. **3.30** Natural World. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **5.30** The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. HQ discover that Mainwaring is not a commissioned officer and he is ordered to join the ranks as a private. Sergeant Wilson is put in temporary charge, but his lack of leadership skills during a training exercise leaves the platoon yearning for the captain's reinstatement. Comedy first aired in 1969, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Marco Fu, with Selby prevailing 17-15 in a high-quality encounter to reach his third world final, where he would face qualifier Ding Junhui.

9.30 Film: Calvary. (2014) Premiere. A priest in a rural Irish village receives a confession from a man who vows to kill him in one week as punishment for the Catholic Church's history of child abuse. The cleric spends his last seven days trying to put his community's affairs in order, but finds himself surrounded by people who harbour resentments of their own against the Church. Drama, starring Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd, Kelly Reilly, Aidan Gillen and Dylan Moran.

11.05 Versailles. The King's bad example is seen as typical of the nobility's immorality as his adultery with Madame de Montespan not only troubles his Queen but also zealous young Father Pascal; (R) Inside Versailles.

12.05 Film: Rabbit-Proof Fence. (2002) **1.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Scoty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.20** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **11.20** Tipping Point. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Bigheads. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's race meetings at Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **4.30** Britain's Got More Talent. **5.30** Catchphrase. (R)

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.25 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness presents as Croydon bartender Tommy, prison officer Luke from Swansea, Essex-based salesman Bayo, and travel consultant Rixy from Leeds enters the "love lift". All four hope to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The audition stage reaches its third week, as judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon continue to travel the length and breadth of the nation to invite more would-be stars to demonstrate their unique talents on-stage. This year, the judges already seem to be eager to place their stamp on performers, as the usually reticent Simon hit his Golden Buzzer during the very first set of auditions.

9.20 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Kimberley Walsh, Jonathan Ross and Andi Peters – to guess the identities of the famous owners. (R)

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Yes Man. (2008) A downtrodden man has his life transformed when he decides to say yes to every opportunity. Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel.

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.35** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **11.25** F1 Meets Daniel Ricciardo. **11.55** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. **2.30** The Auctioneers. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke returns to catch up with London couple Justin Hooper and Charlotte Seddon, who first appeared in the show's third series, planning to transform a derelict wartime airfield control tower in Scotland into a new family home. Four years later, George finds out how the pair's ambitious venture fared, as they struggled to project-manage the site from 600 miles away. With costs spiralling out of control, Justin and Charlotte faced a difficult decision: shut down the build, or make a complete lifestyle change by relocating their family to the site.

8.00 Walking Through Time. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. (R)

9.00 Film: Carol. (2015) Premiere. A housewife trapped in a loveless marriage in 1950s New York forms a close attachment with a younger woman seeking fulfilment in her own life. Romantic drama based on Patricia Highsmith's novel The Price of Salt, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara.

11.20 Film: Zombieland. (2009) A small group of survivors goes in search of a safe haven in an America overrun by ravenous zombies. Comedy horror, starring Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg and Emma Stone.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Shipping Wars UK. (R) **4.20** Fifteen to One. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Access. **10.55** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.20** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.15** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.15** On Benefits: Costa del Dole. (R) **2.15** On Benefits: Living the High Life. (R) **3.15** On Benefits: Single & Skint. (R) **4.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In West London, agents Max and Cona chase up more than £2,000 in unpaid parking fines, but when they try to seize a vehicle, the debtor ties it to a tree. Meanwhile in Lancashire, officers Stewart and Elmor try to collect £4,000 owed for unpaid nursery fees. (R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates the death of a Navy intelligence officer, and the choice of murder weapon leads the agents to believe he was killed by a colleague. However, while former Seal Sam threatens to compromise the integrity of the case, evidence suggests the victim may have been selling secrets to the enemy.

8.00 NCIS. The team must ask a traumatised serviceman to recall the events of an ambush he survived while serving in Iraq, after a American couple are attacked in the very same spot.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Action from the penultimate round of regular-season fixtures in the Championship, including Brighton & Albion v Bristol City at the Amex Stadium, Leeds United v Norwich City at Elland Road, and Ipswich Town v Sheffield Wednesday at Portman Road.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in League Two, including Hartlepool United v Barnet and Carlisle United v Newport County.

10.15 Film: Tower Block. (2012) The residents of a soon-to-be-demolished tower block are trapped while a mysterious sniper picks them off one by one. Thriller, starring Sheridan Smith and Jack O'Connell.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** The Long Ships. (1963) **5.15** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British **8.00** The BBC at War **9.00 Film:** Pioneer (2013) **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **2.05** Duets: The Andy Williams Show **3.05** Sounds of the Eighties **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.25** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Take Me Out **2.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **3.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **4.20 Film:** Flubber (1997) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.10 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **8.20** Scorpion **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.25** Celebrity Juice **11.25** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **2.10** Through the Keyhole **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.55 Margery and Gladys **3.00** Lewis **4.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.45 Counting Cars **1.40** Football Rivalries **2.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage. **5.15** Football Rivalries **5.30** Storage Wars: Texas **5.55** Fierce **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Devil's Advocate (1997) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Devil's Advocate (1997) **11.55 Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** Don't Say a Word (2001) **2.10** Cash Cowboys **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Film: Hop (2011) **2.30 Film:** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Safe House (2012). A CIA agent has to protect a captured fugitive from mercenaries, but also has to resist his prisoner's mind games. Thriller, with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. **11.15** Gogglebox. Viewers' opinions on The Island with Bear Grylls and The Eurovision Song Contest. **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** New Girl

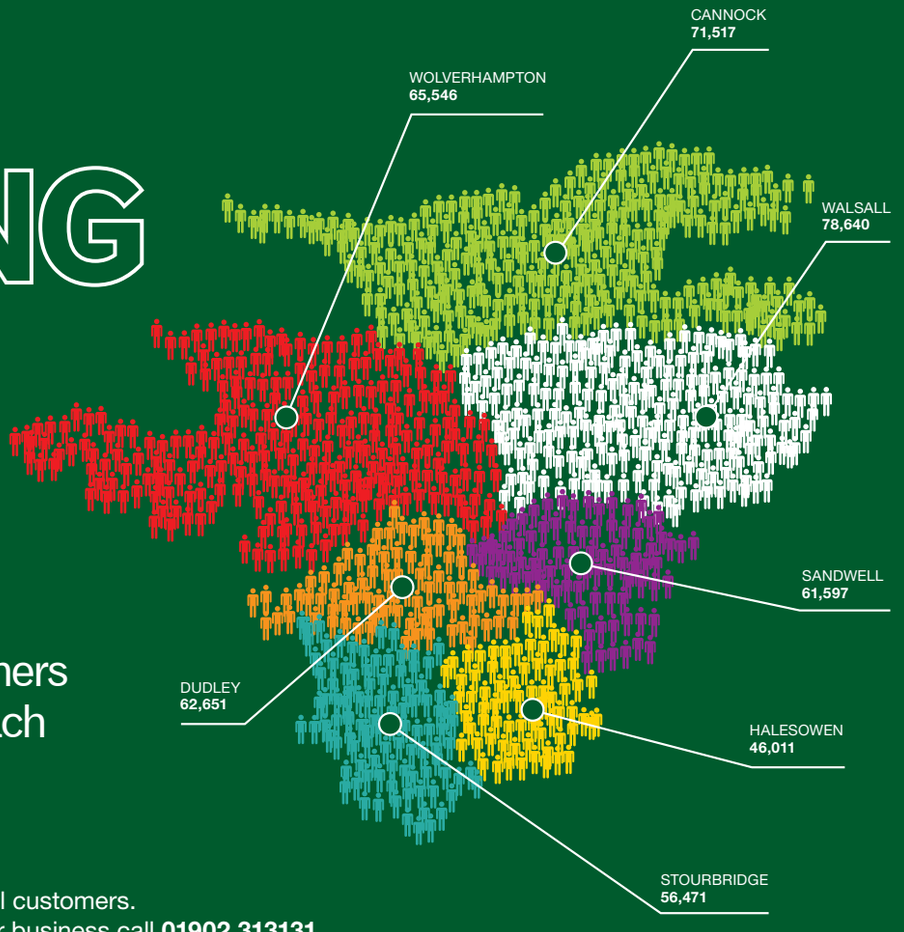
Film4

11.00 Courage Mountain (1990) **1.00** The Borrowers (1997) **2.45** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.20** One Fine Day (1996) **6.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** Bad Neighbours (2014) **10.50** Willow Creek (2013) **12.25** Troll Hunter (2010) **2.30** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) **4.00** Close

CHRONICLE

REACHING MORE PEOPLE

With over **440,000** potential customers every week, you can be sure to reach your target audience at anytime.



The Chronicle offers an unrivalled platform to reach local customers.
To find out how our advertising sales team can help your business call **01902 313131.**

SOURCE: JICREG 31.10.2016

SUNDAY'S TV APRIL 30

CHOICE



Keeley Hawes

Line of Duty (BBC1, 9pm)

It's the time when the likes of Call the Midwife, Heartbeat, Where the Heart Is and other such rose-tinted shows have been broadcast, and The Durrells now falls firmly into that bracket. Simon Nye of Men Behaving Badly fame, is behind this hit revival on ITV. "I've written TV series that were greeted by bafflement, critical vitriol or – worst of all – nothing more than the rustle of tumbleweed," he reveals. "Thank you therefore to everyone, on both sides of the Atlantic, who responded so warmly to the first series of The Durrells last year" This week, Larry is overjoyed at the prospect of his first novel being published back home in England; it's a shame that nobody else seems as thrilled.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.50** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Wanted Down Under. **3.15** Flog It! (R) **4.05** Points of View. **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.05** Songs of Praise. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison visits Warwickshire for Hedgehog Awareness Week, and meets three girls who have set up a rehab centre for the animals. Steve Brown meets local volunteers trying to preserve wildlife along the river Tame and its floodplain, and John Craven visits a nature reserve that doubles as a burial ground. Adam Henson meets a farming family in Cumbria and Tom Heap explores Scotland's salmon industry.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Line of Duty. Nick faces lengthy questioning before being charged with Tim Irfield's murder. The AC-12 team is convinced Roz was also involved, but with Hastings coming under pressure from Hilton, the detectives are running out of time to prove their theory, and are forced to risk everything to bring the guilty parties to justice. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal, Everton v Chelsea, Manchester United v Swansea City and Middlesbrough v Manchester City. Spurs finally seem destined to finish above their north London rivals, and victory would be even sweeter as it would harm the Gunners' chances of a top-four finish.

11.50 The Women's Football Show. Eilidh Barbour presents action from the latest FA WASL Spring Series fixtures, including Sunderland v Arsenal.

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.15** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **8.50** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **11.45** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Athletics: World Relay Championship Highlights. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first eight frames of the match are scheduled to take place.

6.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world, learning the tricks of the trade. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final saw Ding Junhui stage a fightback to trail Mark Selby by just one frame at 7-8, before the Jester from Leicester recovered to end the day with a 10-7 lead. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry, along with Willie Thorne and John Virgo.

11.00 Film: Drive. (2011) A stuntman who moonlights as a getaway driver tries to protect the wife and child of an imprisoned criminal. When the convict is released, the driver tries to convince him to give up his life of crime for his family's sake, but when they work together on a robbery, they end up drawn into a conflict with the Mafia. Crime drama, with Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan and Bryan Cranston.

12.35 Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Oxford, with a panel of politicians and other guests facing topical questions from the audience. (R) **1.35** Holby City. After uncovering a revelation from Matteo's past, he and Jac clash over a patient. Meanwhile, Sacha is not himself, but how long will he be able to keep Essie off the scent? Elsewhere, Ric cracks the whip on the Acute Assessment Unit floor, but a surprise visitor soon throws him off his game. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.05** Fishing Impossible. (R) **12.35** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.40** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.00 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James Bond adventure, starring George Lazenby.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which members of the public compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of David Beckham, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Prince Charles and Queen Victoria. They must dodge past giant bouncers to get into a nightclub, fight over microphones to record a single, and get away before the paparazzi see them. With commentary from Jenny Powell and Kriss Akabusi.

8.00 The Durrells. Larry's latest novel is being published – but nobody seems to be impressed. Leslie has an idea for a new business venture involving making liquor out of kumquats.

9.00 Grantchester. The villagers play a cricket match against nearby Whittlesford, but after an incident involving contaminated beer, one batsman is found poisoned. Guest starring Peter Davison.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Lethal Weapon. The festive holiday season weighs heavily on Riggs, who flashes back to past Christmases with his late wife Miranda, Clayne Crawford stars. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Harlequins v Wasps, Bath v Gloucester and Exeter Chiefs v Northampton Saints.

12.15 Peston on Sunday. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** The Cube. (R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the fourth round of the season. **12.35** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the fourth round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the fourth round of the season. **4.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **5.35** Channel 4 News.

6.05 George Clarke's Old House, New Home. George visits a Grade-II listed worker's cottage in Hampshire, as his mission to future-proof historic houses continues. Due to restrictions on planning permissions, the property has become somewhat disorganised, and is in need of a careful makeover. Seeking inspiration, George tours a Victorian stable that was renovated to add a gym, cinema and roof garden. (R)

7.00 Escape to Costa Rica. New series. Science writer Gaia Vince explores the island, which is the most sustainable nation in the world, home to over 500,000 species of animal and with a national grid run on rivers and volcanoes that is due to be completely carbon neutral by 2021. She meets the republic's president, who explains his environmental policies, and joins a team of scientists helping to preserve the island's forests and wildlife.

8.00 Film: Transformers: Dark of the Moon. (2011) The heroic autobots discover that a spaceship from their own planet crashed into the moon decades ago, carrying their former leader and an incredibly powerful device. They must fight to defend the human race as their enemies the decepticons plot to use this machine to rebuild their own world and destroy the Earth. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley.

11.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

12.05 Film: Mud. (2012) **2.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.50** Gillette World Sport. **3.15** Shipping Wars UK. (R) **3.40** Building the Dream. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** Four in a Bed. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.50** Olly the Little White Van. **7.00** Olly the Little White Van. **7.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.25** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **7.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.10** Wissper. (R) **8.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **8.55** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.45** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** Great Birmingham 10k. Live coverage of the race. **12.00 Film:** Getting Even with Dad. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. **2.00 Film:** Three Men and a Little Lady. (1990) Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck. **4.00 Film:** Housesitter. (1992) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn.

6.00 Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman, Morgan Freeman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. Edited for daytime broadcast.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Greatest Ever 90s Movies. Patsy Kensit presents a countdown of some of the most memorable films from the last decade of the 20th century, including Titanic and Trainspotting. (R)

11.50 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Action from the final fixtures of the regular season in League One, including Southend United v Bury, Bristol Rovers v Millwall and Gillingham v Fleetwood Town.

12.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera. The use of CCTV to help police catch reckless and dangerous drivers. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in five interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 Film:** Charade. (1963) A distraught widow is pursued by her husband's killers, who have linked her to a missing haul of money. Romantic thriller, starring Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant and Walter Matthau. **5.00** House Doctor. (R) **5.25** Wildlife SOS. The work of a wildlife sanctuary. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. Hellie makes an emergency landing. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Birth of British Music **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** Horizon: Dancing in the Dark – The End of Physics? **10.00** Trump's First 100 Days **11.00** Being Evel Knievel: Storyville **12.30** The BBC at War **1.30** Metamorphosis – The Science of Change **2.30** Horizon: Dancing in the Dark – The End of Physics? **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.25 Take Me Out **12.40** Catchphrase **1.20** You've Been Framed! Goes Wild! **2.25 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.15** Britain's Got Talent **5.40** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.10** Fleur East: The Hot Desk **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.40 Film: Forever Young (1992) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** Forever Young (1992) **1.40** A Touch of Frost **3.50** Foyle's War **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** Prince Harry in Africa **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.00** Lewis **3.40** May the Best House Win **5.20** In Loving Memory **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.25 Cycling **12.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. The third and final stage. **5.30** Pawn Stars **5.55** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Car Wars **10.05 Film:** Beetlejuice (1988) **12.00** River Monsters **2.05** Fifth Gear **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 The Goldbergs **12.30** Black-ish **1.00** Baby Daddy **1.30** Kevin Can Wait **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** New Girl **3.00 Film:** The Net (1995) **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **1.05** Celebrity First Dates **2.10** Naked Attraction **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Hercules (1983) **1.00** Song of the Sea (2014) **2.50** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.30** Short Circuit (1986) **6.35** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) **1.20** The Player (1992) **3.55** Close

ALAN WARWICK BUTCHERS
MEGA MEAT SALE
5 KILO FRESH CHICKEN FILLETS £18.00
3LB FRESH CHICKEN FILLETS £5.00
4 JOINTS DEAL
1 BEEF JOINT • 1 LAMB JOINT
1 PORK JOINT • 1 FRESH CHICKEN
ONLY £20.00
3LB MINCED BEEF £5.00
FRESH CHICKENS £4.99 each
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Alan Warwick Brierley Hill, Unit 19 Moor Centre, Moor Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3AH 01384 265200

PICK OF THE WEEK

Kayvan promises '100 per cent real news guaranteed'

As the Fonejacker and Facejacker, Kayvan Novak became known as the man of a thousand voices.

His masterful characters including call centre anti-hero Mr Internet Service Providings, cockney geezer Terry Tibbs and polite Ugandan scammer Augustus Kwembe showed off his remarkable ability to create a range of different characters.

However, Novak is also very versatile and his acting CV includes everything from Oscar-winning thriller Syriana, an acclaimed performance in the 2010 controversial cult comedy Four Lions and voicing Brains in the Thunderbirds Are Go re-boot.

You may have also seen him as a smooth-talking face of bookie's complaints department and in the 2015 BBC Four sitcom Asylum which was inspired by Julian Assange's two-year stay in the Ecuadorian embassy.

And the 38-year-old British Iranian is back on familiar territory with new satirical series Britain Today Tonight in which he plays a variety of roles at the fictional Channel 9Nine News Network.

The show has been made by Peep Show creators Objective Productions, with Channel 4 describing the format as "a spoof tabloid news show" that shines a light on contemporary Britain and promises "100 per cent real news guaranteed".

And make no mistake, with Novak playing the part of prize-winning American host Douglas 'Digger' Daley, the reporters and even some of the subjects of the reports – this is the 'news' as you have never seen it before.

Britain Today Tonight features brand-new specially created characters, and just like Fonejacker and Facejacker it will see the Bafta-winning comedian causing havoc on the streets of Britain.

Channel 4 explains: "He'll be disguising himself as a range of weird and wonderful personalities in order to perform a range of hidden camera hits on celebrities and politicians, as well as winding up the public at large.

"With Kayvan at the centre of every 'news report', this is the hardest-hitting, most sensational, and most importantly, funniest news show ever seen. Probably."

The six-part series kicks off with a double bill tonight as 'Digger' Daley and the team lift the lid on what's happening in Great Britain and the rest of the world.

Security correspondent Jon Donovan lets his imagination run wild as he goes to Essex and Tooting, south London, to get to grips with exactly how British shopkeepers are guarding against a terrorist attack.

Plus, lifestyle reporter Mandi Manners tries to quit smoking and a debate ensues between a licensed black cabbie and an Uber driver.

Finally, entertainment correspondent Mike Armenian follows the auditions for the lead role of gay England football captain Mark Curridge.



Kayvan Novak stars in Britain Today Tonight, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Saving Mr Banks, BBC1, 8.30pm

Walt Disney becomes determined to adapt Mary Poppins into a film, but faces an obstacle in the shape of author PL Travers, who resists the idea of a sentimental Hollywood version of her book. Fact-based drama, with Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Paul Giamatti and Colin Farrell. (2013)

TUESDAY

A Walk Among the Tombstones, Channel 5, 9pm

An ex cop working as an unlicensed private eye is hired by a drug trafficker to find the men who murdered his wife. Crime thriller based on Lawrence Block's novel, starring Liam Neeson. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

The Bling Ring, Channel 4, 1.55am

Five teenagers united by an obsession with celebrity steal from the houses of the rich and famous stars they idolise, using the internet to follow their targets' movements. When the police finally catch up with them, the arrest brings a taste of the fame they have craved. Fact-based drama, starring Emma Watson and Israel Broussard. (2013)



Saving Mr Banks, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

FRIDAY

It's Complicated, Channel 5, 10pm

Divorced couple Jane and Jake are reunited at their son's college graduation after 10 years apart, and end up sleeping together. Despite Jake's marriage to a younger woman and Jane's fledgling romance with a kindly architect, the pair end up having a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin, John Krasinski, Lake Bell, Mary Kay Place, Rita Wilson and Alexandra Wentworth. (2009)

American Gangster, ITV, 10.40pm

The story of 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas, whose innovative methods of smuggling heroin into the US made him one of the leading figures in the New York underworld. A detective is assigned to bring Lucas's empire down, but his investigation is undermined by police corruption. Ridley Scott's fact-based crime drama, starring Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Josh Brolin. (2007)

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Island with Bear Grylls
Channel 4, 9pm

With old and young now living side by side, the islanders are hoping to hit their stride, but the lack of food is an ever-pressing concern and tempers are fraying. Jordan is feeling out of sorts and then has a fight with Richie, while the members of the group are furious when Phil uses some olive oil to boost the fire rather than for food.

Little Boy Blue
ITV, 9pm

Family and friends attend the funeral of 11-year-old Rhys Jones is laid to rest, while a police raid at the home of Kevin Moody leads to the recovery of the gun used in the schoolboy's murder. Moody must choose between being labelled a grass and risking violent retribution or protecting the killer and facing jail time. But an unexpected result from the forensic tests on the firearm leaves the entire investigation hanging in the balance. .

TUESDAY

Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Animals – India
ITV, 9pm

The presenter concludes his Indian adventure with a trip to Assam, which is most famous for its tea but is also important for wildlife – it's home to Kaziranga National Park. Paul pitches in at an animal rescue centre, where he finds himself helping to look after eight elephant calves. He also heads to a local village to learn more about how the residents and animals live side by side – and tries his hand at goat herding. Then it's on to Northern India and a rescue centre that specialises in caring for sloth bears. Paul is put on porridge duty, and discovers the animals do have a real taste for it. In fact, the job keeps him so busy he might not even have time to make it to the Taj Mahal before sunset, but there are still plenty of others sights to see when he goes out on wildlife emergency call, and is faced with a huge python.

WEDNESDAY

Madeleine McCann: 10 Years On
BBC1, 9pm

British toddler Madeleine McCann's disappearance 10 years ago from a holiday apartment in the resort in the Algarve region of Portugal has been investigated by police forces in two different countries – but they came up with contradictory conclusions. So what really happened to the three-year-old in Praia da Luz on the night of May 3, 2007? Reporter Richard Bilton – who has covered the story for the BBC since the first days – examines the evidence and tracks down the men British police have questioned about the case.



Madeleine McCann: 10 Years On, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

Mind the Age Gap
Channel 5, 10pm

With society apparently more divided than ever, 12 volunteers from two different generations attempt to bridge the gap. In this five-part series, no topic will be left untouched, but can a willingness to understand each other end positively or will it just open more questions about today's society? During the first dinner, an attempt at getting to know each other triggers uncomfortable debates. Tension is in the air, and gay marriage is the first topic that divides old from young. While the older group is keen to debate, the younger ones, including Naman and Jed, sense an opportunity to party. Then, an innocent game of Guess the Celebrity quickly turns into a raging debate about the EU, in which members of all ages clash.

FRIDAY

Versailles
BBC2, 9pm

Princess Palatine gets a cold reception in the bed of her new husband Philippe following their marriage celebration. Meanwhile, young Sophie learns her destiny lies in an even crueller match – by order of King Louis. Elsewhere, Bontemps spots misbehaviour that suggests a new prime suspect for the poisonings to Marchal and a remark by medic Claudine echoing an earlier comment, clarifies the case. Period drama, starring George Blagden, Jessica Clark and Lizzie Brochere.

Hospital People
BBC1, 9.30pm

Viewers of a certain age will recall Only When I Laugh, the ITV sitcom which left millions in stitches in the 1980s. Now this similar show is also doing a good job of tickling the funnybone. In this offering, a benevolent local businessman seeks treatment in Brimlington Hospital – much to manager Susan Mitchell's delight. The cast includes Mark Williams, Janine Duvitski and Tom Binns.

All Size Sheds & Fence Panels at Competitive Prices



Playhouses, Summer Houses and all types of fence panels & bays
Fitted, delivered & erected
SPECIAL OFFER
6x5 O/P
ONLY £15
07920 885 774
01384 240 956

WINDOW DOCTOR
CAN'T AFFORD TO REPLACE UPVC then why not just revamp!
BROKEN UNITS REPAIRED FROM £12
• Old looking handles, letterboxes etc. can be replaced
• Draughty windows can be re-sealed, gaskets replaced
• Doors can be adjusted to prevent draughts
• New locking systems, barrels and keys
• Any problems please call for free quote and advice
• We are a company you can trust trading for over 25 years
FREE QUOTES ON ALL WINDOWS, DOORS, ROOFLINES ETC
Part of the Lifestyle Windows Group
www.lifestylewindowsofkingswinford.co.uk
01384 295855
Building 26, Unit 5 First Avenue, Pensnett Trading Estate, Kingswinford DY6 7TB

Active SENIORS
Strength and Balance classes are particularly beneficial to those diagnosed with osteoporosis or for those who have experienced a fall or deterioration in their balance, but are also suitable for anyone who is still active and wants to stay that way! Classes are designed to increase flexibility, joint stability, balance, coordination, agility, muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance. The workout combines balance exercises and resistance (strength) training with plenty of friendly fun. There are classes to suit a range of abilities and some include elements of tai chi style movements to improve balance.
Classes at Sedgley Community Centre (Tuesday mornings) Wall Health Community Centre (Thursday/ Friday mornings) Nine Locks Community Centre Brierley Hill (Wednesday afternoon) – call us for more details or to book a free taster session and see what we get up to. Five week term £25.
Fully qualified and experienced instructors.
Tel Kim and Angela on 07512 546480
Email activeseniorsclass@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/activeseniorsclass/

Concept BLINDS
UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS
Vertical & Roller Blinds
New season fabrics now available
Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge
5 YEAR GUARANTEE
Also available
• Romans • Pleated
• Conservatory Roof Blinds
• Wood Venetians
• Venetian Blinds
• Curved Tracks for Bay Windows
FREE Fitting on all blinds
FREEPHONE 0800 5875279
Open Seven Days a Week
0121 429 3169
FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery

Express & Star
FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE
FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE
Bronze package includes:
• 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
• 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
• Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
• 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
• We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy
Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk
Package Price £399*
*All prices are subject to VAT

BRAIN GYM No.427

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

17	24	17	22			4			25	8	8	4
	12			6	7	17	15	26		20		17
8	25	8	15	7		10		2	5	7	17	1
	25			10		22		17		22		23
	11	7	17	26	10	19	7	22		17	9	8
10				17		21				13		12
7	3	25	7	4	17		3	23	19	7	24	26
21		11				14		7				7
10	17	9		18	5	12	22	22 R	19 I	15	9	
18		8		5		17		7			5	
8	12	10	9	8		26		26	13	7	7	2
8		19		3	22	17	25	11			17	
16	19	3	16			22			25	19	15	3

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Q	L	B	W	D	P	O	E	Y	V	X	I	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	A	F	T	S	G	K	R	C	N	J	U	Z

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 I
7	20
8	21
9	22 R
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

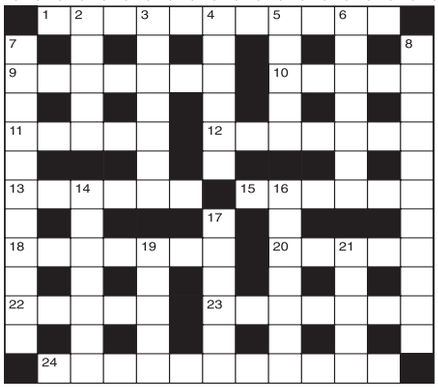
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Soldier in the nursery? (11)
9. Bill speaking well? (7)
10. Useful quality in the manner laid down (5)
11. Spartan slave emerges from hotel (5)
12. Passage taken straight from pamphlet (7)
13. Sector guard (6)
15. Change of backbone is plan (6)
18. E.g. lanes in Africa (7)
20. Kenneth is to receive the souvenir (5)
22. Public voter (5)
23. Was seen about in this place since (7)
24. Relate empty reforms in moderation (11)

Down

2. Fresh fiction (5)
3. He can look down easily on lots of people (7)
4. Almost No 1 amongst ancient cities (6)
5. Still about since a fermenting agent (5)
6. Don't touch sailor with a blemish (7)
7. Strained atmosphere while flying (4,7)
8. Dignity of ranks in countries (11)
14. Yield on one occasion in three consecutive letters (7)
16. The condition of the sufferer under treatment? (7)
17. Blooming river? (6)
19. Rise to such costume (3-2)
21. Get down to service instruction (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Knowledge (11)
9. Withdrawal (7)
10. Allude (5)
11. Flanks (5)
12. In name only (7)
13. Selected (6)
15. Calculate (6)
18. Treachery (7)
20. Consumed (5)
22. Speechify (5)
23. Speedy (7)
24. Informal (4,3,4)

Down

2. Well known (5)
3. Superintend (7)
4. Revolt (6)
5. To drum (5)
6. Umbrage (7)
7. Suing (11)
8. Simplicity (11)
14. Outside (4-3)
16. Spire (7)
17. Invisible (6)
19. Riddle (5)
21. Lock of hair (5)

Sudoku

				5	8		6	
	3	1			6	2	7	
			7	3				
9			3				8	
5	6						4	3
	4			8	9			2
			6	7	5			
	2	6	9			1	5	
	9		8					6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	9	3	1	2	4	8	6
2	3	4	7	6	8	9	5	1
6	8	1	5	4	9	2	3	7
1	6	3	4	2	7	8	9	5
8	2	7	1	9	5	6	4	3
9	4	5	8	3	6	7	1	2
7	1	6	9	5	4	3	2	8
4	5	2	6	8	3	1	7	9
3	9	8	2	7	1	5	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Keep left; 5 Cord; 9 Able; 10 Strikers; 11 Order; 12 Ragtime; 13 For the present; 18 Race card; 19 Avid; 20 Examine; 21 Fishy; 22 Some; 23 Standard. Down: 2 Embargo; 3 Pretext; 4 Future perfect; 6 One-time; 7 Dissect; 8 Single; 13 Forgers; 14 Reclaim; 15 Hectic; 16 Seabird; 17 Neither.
QUICK - Across: 1 Peculiar; 5 Fair; 9 Menu; 10 Appeared; 11 Minus; 12 Embroil; 13 Fellow-feeling; 18 Outright; 19 City; 20 Derange; 21 Snubs; 22 Dull; 23 Reviewer. Down: 2 Eremite; 3 Unusual; 4 Apple of the eye; 6 A priori; 7 Red flag; 8 Feeble; 13 Flooded; 14 Literal; 15 Orient; 16 Licence; 17 Notable.

Quiz

1. What do we call an invertebrate whose body is divided into head, thorax and abdomen?
2. In which country did the mazurka originate?
3. Which late comedian jokingly insulted Prince Charles at the British Comedy Awards?
4. Which colonel administrator was responsible for the acquisition and foundation of Singapore?
5. By what other name is Israel's Lake Tiberias known?
6. Who was the first monk to become archbishop of Westminster?
7. Who wrote the novel Flamingo Feather in 1955?
8. Which volcano buried Pompeii in AD 79?
9. Whose father was Robert I, known as The Devil?
10. In which city is Romeo and Juliet set?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Hardness of minerals; 2 Painting and Illustration; 3 Cider; 4 Lillie Langtry; 5 Duisburg; 6 Algae; 7 Unification Church; 8 Hart to Hart; 9 Milton Obote; 10 Arctic.

Niner: BOARDINGS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

73921 gives an animal,
4522785 gives a second animal,
92262 gives birds.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE



FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

*All prices are subject to VAT

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Quote: JGRT
Your Chronicle in association with Just go! HOLIDAYS



THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STEAM TRAIN & CLASSIC CAMBRIDGE
Mon 18 to Wed 20 Sep
Your break includes
- 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast at our selected hotel
- Union of South Africa steam train journey on the Nene Valley Railway
- Visit to Cambridge
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

3 Day Break only £199
STEAM TRAIN SPECIAL!

ISLE OF WIGHT WEEKEND
Fri 7 to Mon 10 Jul
Your break includes
- 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Royal Pier Hotel, Sandown
- Entertainment on one night
- Excursion to Newport
- Optional Island Highlights Tour (£7.99pp)
- Return coach travel from Dudley & Stourbridge

4 Day Break only £159.99
SUPERVALUE

HISTORIC YORK, DURHAM & THE DALES*
Mon 3 to Fri 7 Jul
Your break includes
- 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at a selected hotel, Leeds area
- Excursions to York & Durham
- Optional excursion to Skipton Market & Grassington* (£7.99pp)
- Return coach travel from Halesowen & Stourbridge

5 Day Break only £189.99
SUPERVALUE

08432 244 217
justgoholidays.com/RT
justgohols
@justgoholidays

Calls to 08 numbers will cost 7 pence per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Calls from mobiles may vary. Single supplements and terms apply

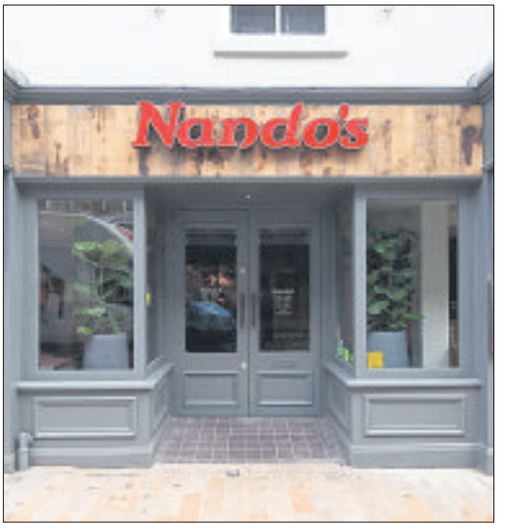
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, April 27, 2017

Peri cool place for lunch

It's a popular high street chain and Wolverhampton Nando's has had a revamp. EMILY BRIDGEWATER checks it out



Nice 'n' spicy – how hot do you like your chicken at Nando's? Here it's served with spicy rice and a side salad



The newly-revamped Nando's in Queen Street, Wolverhampton

MEDIUM, hot, or extra hot? How spicy do you like your Nando's? How hot?

If the sub-zero temperature in Wolverhampton's revamped branch of Nando's was anything to go by, at the time we visited, then it's extra hot all the way. My two pals and I visited the popular Afro-Portuguese chain one lunchtime, shortly after it had reopened following a month-long refurb.

They've done a good job; the restaurant has been opened out and new fixtures and fittings have given its slightly tired interior a fresh lease of life. But the first thing we all comment on is the temperature – it's colder in than out. We are however, warmly greeted by a friendly member of staff who offers us a choice of tables.

Options

And so to the menu, which everyone knows features predominatly chicken plus a handful of other options for veggies and the likes.

There was talk of salads but all good intentions were thrown out and we opted for burgers, pittas and plenty of sides.

The man among us plumped for the butterfly chicken, while my friend and I sidelined the chook in favour of beanie burgers.

Orders are placed at the counter – the same guy serves me as showed us to our table, and he's as breezy and friendly as when we arrived. Full marks for pleasant staff.

Starters included houmous with peri peri drizzle and warm pitta bread strips and a trio of chicken wings spiced to your liking. Meanwhile, the main courses feature all manner of chicken dishes, from burgers to the whole shebang, as well as a fillet steak wrap for those who the lure of red meat is too great, and salads for those 'trying to be good'.

We start with gigantic olives and some spicy nuts although unfortunately my friend finds a hair in the latter. Add three refillable drinks and some good conversation and we're kept busy enough until our main courses arrive. The olives were fairly plump and juicy, and the nuts – a pleasing mix of cashews, almonds and macadamias – well-seasoned and moreish.

The double butterfly chicken drenched in hot sauce looked appetising, as did the two beanie burgers (both medium hot) in pitta breads, packed with crunchy shredded cabbage and carrot. Three spicy chicken wings plus sides including macho peas, coleslaw, chips, mixed salad, corn on the cob and a supergrain salad, and we tucked in with gusto.

My beanie patty in a pitta, topped with halloumi, filled a hole without being something particularly memorable. The burger features chickpeas, sweetcorn, lentils, peas and pumpkin seeds, bound together with Cheddar cheese, although none of the ingredients particularly stood out. It all seemed a bit of a bland mush. The salad was fresh and the cheese griddled to perfection.

The chicken muncher was also underwhelmed, commenting that his bird was a bit dry. The same goes for the chicken wings, he said, mournfully. Side dishes were hits and misses. We all agreed the supergrain salad with grains, greens, beans and an avocado and buttermilk dressing. We also liked the minty, chilli-spiked macho peas.

We managed to munch through most of it and we were left stuffed and unable to face dessert despite tantalising options such as a traditional Portuguese custard tart (natas), salted caramel brownies and carrot cake.

The bill came in at £50.85 including three refillable soft drinks, which seemed reasonable for the sheer volume of food.

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Fly direct from Birmingham airport

Your Chronicle in association with Omega
ABTA

4 STAR SORRENTO Summer Special

Quote Code: WAU092

Departing Friday 23 June 2017

Join us for a gorgeous break among the cliffs, lemon orchards, olive groves and turquoise waters of the Bay of Naples, with flights, hotel and half-board, and optional excursions to Capri, Pompeii, and Positano, Amalfi & Ravello.



Price Includes...
- ✔ Outbound flight by scheduled airline from Birmingham airport to Naples†, return by exclusive Omega charter
- ✔ 8 nights half board at the 4 star Hotel Jaccarino, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi
- ✔ Airport taxes and transfers

Optional excursions at a supplement to Capri, Pompeii, and Positano, Amalfi & Ravello

9 days, by AIR only £819pp

The advertised price is correct as of 20 April 2017 and is based upon departure from Birmingham airport on 23 June 2017.

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/WAU092

Quote Code: CDU114



SWITZERLAND and the Glacier Express

Departing Sunday 9 July 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight on an exclusive Omega charter from Birmingham airport to Friedrichshafen
- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Sport, Klosters (4 star upgrade available at a supplement)
- ✔ Excursion on the Glacier Express from Tiefencastel to Andermatt, with a visit to Lucerne and a boat cruise on the lake
- ✔ Excursion on the Bernina Express from Pontresina to Poschiavo, with a visit to St Moritz
- ✔ A complimentary Davos Klosters Card giving resort discounts and free use of Klosters cable cars and public transport
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/CDU114

8 days, by AIR only £1299pp

Quote Code: GNA553



4 Star Summer in the AUSTRIAN MOUNTAINS (LECH)

Departing Sunday 9 July 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight on an exclusive Omega charter from Birmingham airport to Friedrichshafen
- ✔ 7 nights at the 4 star Hotel St Anthony's Alpin, Lech with breakfast
- ✔ Tea, coffee and afternoon cake
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/GNA553

8 days, by AIR Only £899pp

†We have included the current flight price within the above package price. Should the cost of flights change the package price may vary. The final price will be confirmed to you at time of booking.

For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00 SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

OmegaHols @OmegaHols OmegaHols

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Well-presented two-bed bungalow is much improved

A well presented and much improved two-bedroomed detached bungalow, Fairhaven, Summit Place, Gornal Wood, is situated in a quiet backwater, a short level walking distance from the centre of Gornal Wood where a wide range of amenities are available.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £189,950.

With a tarmac driveway and gravelled front garden for off-road parking and an attached garage, this property has gated access at both sides, with the rear garden mainly lawned.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall with laminate flooring, a built-in cloaks cupboard and a storage cupboard.

The living room lies to the front. It has oak flooring and an inset wood burner on a tiled hearth with a feature oak beam above.

The dining kitchen has a dining area with windows to the front and side, oak flooring, ceiling spotlights and fitted bench seating with storage under.

The kitchen area has a range of base cupboards, a drawer unit, worktop surfaces, wall cupboards and ceiling spotlights.

Both bedrooms overlook the rear of the property.

The bathroom has a panelled bath with a shower, glazed shower screen, pedestal wash hand basin, low level WC, full height tiling to the walls, coved ceiling, laminate flooring and ceiling spotlights.

The attached garage has double wooden doors, two windows and a side pedestrian door, electric light and power and a store cupboard.

If you are thinking of selling your home, then Wakeman Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents in Dudley offer a free market appraisal, in order to give you advice on the marketing and asking price for your home.

When you are ready to place your home on the market for sale they can quickly prepare high quality sale brochures, incorporating exterior and interior photographs, as well as floor plans.

GORNAL WOOD £189,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman
TEL: 01384 459999
EMAIL: dudley@wakeman-online.com

KEY FEATURES

Bungalow
Much improved
2 bedrooms
Quiet backwater position
Within walking distance of amenities







They're sold

Turn to your local estate agent to sell your property and you will be **SOLD ON:**

- **Professional accredited local agent service**
- **Free valuation**
- **Local area knowledge**
- **Adverts in local newspapers, online and office window display**
- **Registered house hunters**
- **Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast**

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



Large bungalow is situated on corner plot

HALESOWEN
£325,000

The Drive in Halesowen, is a generously proportioned detached bungalow situated on a large corner plot of approximately quarter of acre with gated driveway.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £325,000.

Conveniently located, close to Halesowen town centre and transport links, it has a fully fitted kitchen, a large utility, a guest WC, two reception rooms, three spacious bedrooms, a bathroom and gas central heating, double glazing where specified.

The lower floor has a large garage and two workshops and there are large gardens, a driveway and garage.

Call 0121 585 6667 for more information or to book that all important viewing.









Bungalow is spacious and detached and new to market

KINGSWINFORD
£269,950 <<<

A spacious modern detached bungalow with three bedrooms in Pleasant Close, Kingswinford, lies in a charming cul-de sac setting.

New to the property market, it is for sale through Taylors at £269,950.

Positioned just off Cot Lane to Mount Pleasant, and ready to move into, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, hall, a large lounge with a dining area, a kitchen with space for breakfast table, three good bedrooms, a bathroom and WC.

Outside this home has a front lawn and drive, a garage and gardens with a patio and lawns. The garden is positioned to make the most of the afternoon sun.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the home for you, contact Taylors on 01384 401777.

Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk

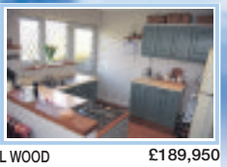

HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE ON ALL PROPERTIES

'THE ORCHARD', KETTLES BANK ROAD PRICES FROM £242,000
GORNAL WOOD
•Small development of four new build houses with 3 & 4 bedrooms
•The houses offer extremely spacious accommodation
•With laid out gardens and parking facilities
•Occupying a popular, pleasant & convenient location
•Integrated roof solar panels generating free electricity for your home
•To be built by Ling Homes Ltd with 10 year structural warranty
•EPC RATINGS TBC


HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE

BREWERS WALK, DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY
£237,000
•New build detached house
•Situated on new small development
•Four bedrooms
•Spacious accommodation with parking for 3 vehicles
•Will be built to a high standard
•Built on the former Leopard Inn
•EPC RATING TBC


NEW



'FAIRHAVEN' SUMMIT PLACE, GORNAL WOOD £189,950
•Well presented detached bungalow with two bedrooms
•Upvc sealed unit double glazing & gas central heating
•Kitchen with oak flooring & dining area with fitted bench seating
•Attached garage, tarmac driveway & gravelled front garden for parking
•EPC RATING D


NO UPWARD CHAIN
MINING REPORT AVAILABLE

7 REDWOOD AVENUE £135,000
DUDLEY
•Semi detached house
•Well proportioned accommodation
•Three bedroms
•'L' shaped rear garden
•EPC RATING E


NO UPWARD CHAIN

81 NEW STREET, GORNAL WOOD O/A £179,950
•Individually designed and built traditional style detached house
•Well proportioned, extended and enlarged three bedroom accommodation
•Potential for further enhancement & upgrading to a discerning buyers own style
•Occupying a wide road frontage with ample off road parking
•EPC RATING E


NO UPWARD CHAIN

115 DUDLEY ROAD £114,950
SEDGLEY
•Terraced house
•Two bedrooms
•Upvc double glazing
•Well maintained accommodation
•EC RATING D

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR PROPERTY
THEN LOOK NO FURTHER
Experienced, helpful & supportive staff
Competitive fee packages
Call into branch or contact us on 01384 459999
for a FREE, no obligation market appraisal


NEW



16 HASLINGDEN CRESCENT, LOWER GORNAL £177,950
•Modern three bedroom home with well presented accommodation
•Situated in a pleasant & popular residential area
•Low maintenance gardens, two separate parking spaces
•Living room, dining kitchen, en-suite shower room to bedroom one
•EPC RATING C


NO UPWARD CHAIN

46 WELLSPRING GARDENS £89,950
DUDLEY
•Second floor apartment
•Two bedrooms
•Situated on a new development
•Low maintenance
•EPC RATING B



83-84 CINDER BANK
DUDLEY
£9,500 per annum
•Detached office building
•Flexible office accommodation
•Well maintained and carpeted
•Car parking for several vehicles
•Prominently situated
•EPC RATING D

202 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley
01384 459999
wakeman-online.com

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford 01384 401777 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



WOMBOURNE, Van Diemans Road

This EXTENDED SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE is BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED throughout, and with LAWN and TREES OPPOSITE including: Porch, Hall, LOUNGE, Dining area with Kitchen, Three bedrooms and Bathroom. DRIVE, GARAGE and SECLUDED GARDEN. EPC D

£224,950



SEDGLEY, Gower Road, Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED! a gas centrally UPVC double- glazed detached bungalow with potential comprising reception hall, cloaks cupboard, two double bedrooms (one with wardrobes), shower room, transverse 22'4" living/dining room (with patio doors) kitchen, through vestibule, large garage, sheltered/secluded rear garden, good distant views, EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £220,000



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

With construction now completed, and just 2 bungalows still available for sale, an exciting development of gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Two designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £230,000.-Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

PRICES FROM £218,500



WOLVERHAMPTON, Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park

Prominently situated upon fine corner plot (with potential) a SPACIOUS UPVC double glazed THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM detached that has been upgraded in recent years but offers scope for further improvement. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, updated kitchen, pantry, three generous bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, garage, ample gardens. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £214,950



KINGSWINFORD, Cross Street

Superbly located within Kingswinford's highly sought after Old Quarter, this SUCCESSFULLY ALTERED & IMPROVED PERIOD SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys a CONSERVATORY, together with GENEROUS accommodation, plus a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN. EPC E

No upward chain

£176,950



WALL HEATH, Barton Lane

A GENEROUS & EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM MODERN END TOWNHOUSE with GARAGE and a PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, well placed within a sought after cul-de-sac, offering a VERY SPACIOUS layout ground floor wet room, provides much potential, requiring updating/improvement. EPC C

No upward chain

£159,950



WOMBOURNE, Van Diemans Road

A LARGE MID FAMILY TOWN HOUSE, well placed within sought after Wombourne village, enjoying an open front outlook, offering a INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS layout of VERY WELL PRESENTED accommodation, including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS and a landscaped and private rear garden. EPC D

£156,950



UPPER GORNAL, The Paddock

Gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed traditional style semi set at head of cul-de-sac (just off Clarence Street) this much improved home comprises entrance porch, reception hall, walk in cloaks, under stair store, 23'9" through living/dining room, refitted kitchen, upgraded utility room; three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), tiled upgraded bathroom, large garage, recently block paved foregarden, sheltered rear garden. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Cooper Avenue

This SUBSTANTIAL & WELL PROPORTIONED, THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Fitted Kitchen, TWO HUGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS & SINGLE THIRD BEDROOM, Wet Room, Driveway & Pleasant Gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: E

New price

Fixed £140,000



LANESFIELD, Rookery Road

A significantly modernised ENLARGED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with reception hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, 13'2" kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy 24'9" garage with block paved driveway and a secluded/level rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,000



DUDLEY, Old Park Road

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been conscientiously maintained over they years now requires some sympathetic upgrading. With entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, lounge with bay, extended 19'5" living room, extended 15'10" breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom, off road parking to front (kerb dropped) and lengthy rear garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,950



NETHERTON, Lyndale Road

This EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED & STYLISHLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, END-TERRACE HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Stylish Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Guests W.C, Three First Floor Bedrooms, CONTEMPORARY BATHROOM, Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC C

£119,950



SEDGLEY, Kings Road

Conveniently situated within walking distance of Sedgley Centre, this traditional terraced property has huge potential. Benefiting from entrance porch and hallway, this THREE BEDROOM also has living room, dining room, kitchen, guest W/C, bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating, front and rear gardens and is being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £119,950, NOW £114,950



NETHERTON, Warwick Road

This DELIGHTFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, TRADITIONAL STYLE, PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Attractive L-Shaped Lounge, Modern Well Fitted Kitchen, Guests W.C, Three Large First Floor Bedrooms, Well Appointed Bathroom & PLEASANT GARDEN! EPC D

£114,950



DUDLEY, Corser Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Within walking distance of Milking Bank, and all associated amenities, a gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler), uPVC double glazed THREE BEDROOM intermediate 'starter home' in popular district briefly comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, transverse dining kitchen with bay. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Parking to front (for one car), and good size sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £114,950, NOW £110,000



BRIERLEY HILL, Adelaide Street

This CHARMING, PERIOD STYLE, MID-TERRACE HOME comprises: Lovely Through Lounge with Dining Area, Well Fitted Kitchen, Two First Floor Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Low Maintenance Astro Turf Style Rear Garden & Versatile Loft Space. EPC E

£89,950



COSELEY, Ebenezer Street

●HUGE POTENTIAL● This traditional terraced property is situated in the popular Coseley area of Wolverhampton. Offering huge potential for IMPROVEMENT, this THREE BEDROOM home benefits from open plan living-dining room, cellar, good-sized kitchen, bathroom and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN - OFFERS OVER £84,950 TO BE RECEIVED BY 12 NOON ON FRIDAY 28.4.17 EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers over £84,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Dadford View

This WELL PRESENTED & SPACIOUS, TOP FLOOR FLAT comprises: Hall, Pleasant Sitting Room, WELL FITTED KITCHEN, TWO BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Allocated & Visitors Parking and Lovely Communal Gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: E

New price

Offers in Excess of £55,000



Well-presented family home on a corner plot

CRADLEY HEATH
£250,000

This well-presented modern detached home in Dorothy Adams Close, Cradley Heath, lies on a large corner plot in a cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £250,000 with no chain. It has a spacious lounge/dining room, a dining kitchen, a utility, a downstairs cloakroom/WC, four good-sized bedrooms, an en suite, family bathroom, a double garage, off-road parking for several cars, a rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing.

In more detail, the living room has a bay window, a feature fireplace, laminate flooring and an archway to the dining area with French doors to the garden. The dining kitchen includes an integrated electric cooker with gas hob and French doors to the garden, laminate flooring and room for further appliances.

Call Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.









Three-bedroom semi-detached home is for sale with no chain

KIDDERMINSTER
£175,000 <<<

This very well presented three-bedroomed semi-detached family home in Stourbridge Road, Kidderminster, lies on the Birmingham side of town.

It is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys at £175,000 with no chain.

It has a reception hall, a lounge, dining room, a kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, a garage, fore and rear gardens.

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off. The lounge and dining room has a lounge area with a front-facing leaded bay window. A square arch opens to the dining area with rear facing patio doors. This area also has a feature fireplace with a marble back and hearth and an inset coal effect gas fire.

For further details contact Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys on 01562 822244

SDL AUCTIONS
BIGWOOD

4TH MAY 2017
Aston Villa Football Ground
Starting at 11:00am

AUCTION

122 LOTS To include properties on behalf of:
Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators

Birmingham City Council · Solihull · Sandwell · asra



34 Woodfield Av. Brierley Hill
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £75,000 plus



5 New Street, Tipton
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £48,000 - £52,000



14 Swancote Road, Dudley
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £60,000 plus



76 Highfield Road, Tipton
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



64 Alexandra Road, Wednesbury
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £55,000 plus



46 Lewis Street, Tipton
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



62 Dibdale Street, Dudley
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £45,000 plus



21 Trinity Street, West Bromwich
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £74,000 - £78,000



88 Mayswood Grove, Quinton
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £125,000 plus



72 Tenby Road, Moseley
2 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £50,000

Vacant Residential Properties, Residential Investments, Vacant Commercial Properties, Commercial Investments, Land/Development Opportunities, Garages & Ground Rents

0121 233 5046 www.sdlauctions.co.uk @SDLBigwood

Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price. Any additional fees will be confirmed in the legal pack which can be downloaded from our website, inspected at our offices or in the auction room before bidding. For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve Price please refer to our catalogue or website. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office for further details or advice.









Three-bedroom terraced home is in a popular residential area

LOWER GORNAL
£177,950 <<<

Situated in a pleasant and popular residential area, this three-bedroomed terraced house in Haslingden Crescent, Lower Gornal, Dudley, lies between Gornal Wood and Sedgley.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £177,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, living room, inner hallway, dining kitchen, first floor landing, bedroom one en-suite, two further bedrooms, gardens and two parking spaces.

The property has a wide range of amenities being available within the area.

It also has the benefit of a residue for 10-year NHBC warranty and has well proportioned accommodation with low maintenance gardens.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 or visit www.wakeman-online.com



Detcahed property has been enhanced

DUDLEY
£274,950

Having been reduced in price, 55 Breamore Crescent, Earls Keep, Dudley, has outstanding accommodation that has been tremendously enhanced and meticulously maintained.

It is in a quiet location and is now for sale through Taylors at £274,950.

With a new boiler, this home's outstanding accommodation includes a hall, fitted cloakroom/WC, a store, an elegant lounge, a separate dining room, an upgraded kitchen with granite work surfaces and mainly integrated appliances and a utility room. There are also four generous bedrooms, a principle bedroom with built-in wardrobes, a recently reappointed en-suite, bathroom, garage and a delightful well-stocked sheltered rear garden.

Call Taylors on 01902 880888.

PREFERRED AND CHOSEN

ELDERWOOD PLACE
BILSTON, WOLVERHAMPTON

show stopping
NEW HOMES

Discover the extraordinary difference in our beautiful new showhomes at Elderwood Place. Experience our unrivalled specification and see the lifestyle you can have with the Kier way of living. Reserve your new home now before it's too late.

Now available - 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes from £145,995 or with Help to Buy £116,796*

WHERE UNRIVALLED LIVING BEGINS

ELDERWOOD PLACE
off Dudley Street, Bilston, Wolverhampton WV14 0JT

DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE • JOIN US

SALES OFFICE: Thurs-Mon 10am-5pm
TELEPHONE: 07841 082343
EMAIL: elderwoodplacesales@kier.co.uk

Help to Buy

KIER

www.kierliving.co.uk



CGI of The Wychwood 3 bedroom home at Elderwood Place. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.



Traditional detached is well proportioned

GORNAL WOOD
£179,950

An individually designed three-bedroomed traditional detached house, 81 New Street, Gornal Wood, Dudley, is well proportioned and has scope for further enhancement and upgrading.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £179,950 with no chain.

It has a storm porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, two living rooms, a breakfast kitchen, sitting room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, gardens and a concrete store room.

This property is positioned on a wide corner plot close to Gornal Wood Village centre, where a wide range of amenities are available. The property has been extended and enlarged.

For further information call 01384 459999.









Cottage-style terrace home is close to town centre amenities

HICKS HADLEY
£130,000 <<<

A superbly presented terraced cottage-style home in Wright Street, Halesowen, lies close to all amenities, being within walking distance of the town centre.

New to the property market, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £130,000.

The property has accommodation which briefly comprises a lounge, spacious dining room, a refitted kitchen, two bedrooms (both with fitted furniture) and a shower room. The property also offers gas central heating, double glazing and a neat and private rear garden.

In more detail the lounge has a period-style fire, laminate flooring and stairs to the first floor.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal home for you, contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.

K.Stuart Swash
AUCTION
13th JUNE 2017
Entries to date include:
Detached, Semi-Detached Houses & Bungalows
Properties for Renovation
Vacant Possession & Investments
Ground Rents
Paddock of Land
Further entries invited
Please Register for Catalogue
2 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton WV1 4BL
(01902) 710626/424044
Email: swashauctions@btconnect.com
www.kstuartswash.co.uk



Charming cottage is both spacious and versatile

COVEN
£495,000

A delightful detached cottage of charming individuality, The Mill Cottage, Old Stafford Road, Coven, blends rustic character with distinctive contemporary style specification of impressive quality.

It is for sale through Bartlams at £495,000. It is pleasantly positioned in a semi-rural setting just off the A449 about six miles north of Wolverhampton city centre and with very convenient access to the motorway network. It has surprisingly spacious accommodation of versatile layout and is presented to a particularly high standard.

This includes a stunning reception hall/sitting room, a large lounge, a separate dining room, an exquisite garden room, a superb breakfast kitchen with a magnificent range of fittings and appliances.

Substantial gates secure forecourt parking facilities for several vehicles. Beautifully landscaped gardens have considerable privacy and a southerly aspect.

Call Bartlams on 01902 759888.

Blend of performance and economy

By John Griffiths

Vauxhall's Corsa used to be the baby of the pack – that role now goes to the Viva – but it still holds the title of one of Britain's favourites, consistently in the top five best-sellers list.

It has grown, matured (and naturally become more expensive too) as the Adam and the new Viva have taken its place as Vauxhall's most affordable models.

In doing so it has improved, grown and become more economical ensuring that it remains a totally credible rival for the top-selling Ford Fiesta.

The test car was a top of the range Limited Edition, with the latest and arguably most efficient engine under the bonnet.

It's a stylish car, with a high class interior with a modern, sporty theme and premium materials, as befits its £17,360 price tag (undercutting the equivalent Ford by a couple of hundred pounds). It is also well-equipped, including Vauxhall's sophisticated touchscreen and connecivity system, although satnav isn't on the standard kit list.

The power plant was Vauxhall's latest 1.0 litre, three cylinder turbocharged engine – which appears to be the engine of the future judging by how many manufacturers are doing for the same size/format.

The figures speak for themselves: 0 to 62mph in 10.3 seconds, an official average of 57.6mpg (I got between 44 and 49mpg in varying conditions) and a low 113g/km of CO2. That betters the older, 1.4 petrol engine in the Corsa range in each department, particularly performance (0 to 62mph in 15.5 seconds).

The difference is not only the extra power (115PS) of the little turbo, but the boost provided by the forced induction, creating torque (170Nm) more akin to a small diesel unit than a petrol one.

This combination is a world away from normally aspirated, 1.0 units of yesteryear, even though most had an extra cylinder.

On motorways or on hills, it performs at lower revs, therefore remaining quieter and smoother: more like a 1.6 litre unit but using less fuel and producing lower emissions.

The Limited Edition runs on sports suspension, complementing the sporty interior trim such as aluminium pedals and leather-clad, sports style steering wheel.

It sits on 17-inch black alloy wheels and wide, low profile tyres which give a firm but not uncomfortable ride. The six-speed gearbox is slick with a short-throw action, and the steering is quick and positive.

With the benefit of the sports suspension, the ride height is slightly slower and turn-in sharper, with less body roll through the quicker corners.

In short, its dynamic combination of suspension steering, ride and performance sufficient to put it in the 'warm hatch' category – but with a rather more cosseting and mature experience than some who shout that designation from the rooftops.

The dash is dominated by the now usual central touchscreen controller with Vauxhall's latest multimedia system, and an ability to link up with smartphone functions.

The car also has Vauxhall's excellent OnStar system: just three buttons which give you instant access to human operators (in Luton) for a wide range of assistance, from helping to locate your car) to checking the vehicle's vital functions, providing directions or sending the emergency services to your location in the event of an incident. It's a useful system, more normally found on much more expensive cars.

VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED EDITION, £17,360



The Limited Edition Corsa is a rewarding drive with sporty styling and a good blend of performance and economy

The dash is divided by a horizontal, body coloured flash of metal along with highlights of chrome and black gloss panelling, making the cabin a modern and pleasant place to be.

The sports-style wheel has an array of remote control functions for audio, handsfree telephone, cruise control and a comprehensive trip computer.

The Limited Edition also comes with a heated windscreen, tinted rear windows, air conditioning, hill start assist, tyre pressure monitoring, electrcically heated and adjusted door mirrors, and sports-style front seats. It has plenty of head and leg room for four adults (five could be a squeeze) and a class average boot for 280, with the rear seats up.

The Limited Edition is the consummate Corsa: a rewarding drive, sporty styling and a good blend of performance and economy.

It also sits at the top of the range price-wise, and some drivers will no doubt opt for the proven 1.3 turbo diesel with its potential fuel economy of more than 88mpg.

The Corsa range starts with the older, 1.4 petrol engine (with a modest 75PS of power) at £10,685. There's a 90PS version, too.

T WALL - USED CAR AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALE

		NOW
09/09	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME** Ideal First Car	£3695
09/09	**HYUNDAI I10 1.2 COMFORT** 26,000 miles	£3995
07/57	**VOLVO C30 SE LUX 1.8** 3-dr, 56,000 miles	£4295
10/60	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi SCI (AC)** 58,000 miles	£4295
09/09	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi DESIGN** Air Blue	£4295
10/59	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 16V SE** Silver	£4495
10/59	**CITROEN C3 1.4 EXC** Only 32,508 miles	£4995
13/13	**HYUNDAI i10 1.2 ACTIVE** Silver, 32,845 miles	£5295
10/10	**KIA SOUL 1.6 TEMPEST** Silver, 19,858 miles	£5695
11/61	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTi** Silver, 42,228 miles	£5795
11/61	**VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1.4 PETROL** Blue, 33,043 miles	£5995
14/14	**CITROEN C1 EDITION** Silver, Ideal First Car	£5995
11/11	**CITROEN DS3 1.6** Petrol, White/Black, Bargain	£6295
13/62	**SEAT IBIZA 1.6 TDi SE SPORTS TOURER** 34,685 miles	£6795
13/63	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 SRi** White, 35000 miles	£7995
13/13	**NISSAN JUKE VISIA 1.4 DSL** White, Bargain	£7995
14/63	**VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.7 CDTi SRi** Red, 44,420 miles	£8295
10/10	**TOYOTA PRIUS 1.8 HYBRID** Auto, Hatchback	£8295
14/14	**NISSAN NOTE 1.5 DCI ACENTA** Premium Blue	£8795
14/14	**DACIA DUSTER 1.5** Laureate Silver, 25,274 miles	£8995
14/64	**MINI ONE 1.2** Petrol, 16,328 miles, Blue	£9195

		NOW
10/60	**HYUNDAI iX35 2.0 Premium, 2WD,** Red	£9295
14/14	**RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DSL MEDIA NAV** 29,142 miles	£9395
12/62	**CITROEN C4 GRAND PCASSO MPV 1.6 HDi,** Airdream	£9495
13/62	**NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCi TEKNA** Pearl Black	£9695
14/14	**SEAT LEON 1.6 TDi SE** 5-dr, 24,031 miles	£9995
14/64	**NISSAN JUKE 1.2 ACENTA PREMIUM/NAV** 13,101 miles	£9995
13/63	**PEUGEOT 208 1.6 GTi** White, Only 24,164	£9995
12/62	**NISSAN QUASHQAI 1.5 DCi N-TEC/NAV** 35,000 miles	£10,995
14/14	**SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 TDi ELEGANCE** Nav, Black	£10,995
12/12	**AUDI A1 1.4 TFSi SPORT** Auto, Nav, 5-dr	£11,995
13/63	**HYUNDAI iX35 2.0 CRDi PREMIUM** Ice Blue	£12,495

VANS

15/65	**TOYOTA PROACE 120, 2.0 HDi** 26,039 miles	£9295+VAT
15/65	**RENAULT TRAFIC 115 DCi** Business Van, Nav 17,600 miles	£10,995 +VAT
13/63	**MITSUBISHI L200 D/CAB WARRIOR** 36,504 miles	£12,495 +VAT
16/66	**VIVARO 2900 SPORTIVE** Grey, 7106 miles, Choice	£14,500 +VAT
16/16	**VIVARO 2900 SPORTIVE** Silver, 5961 Miles	£14,500 + VAT
16/16	**VW TRANSPORTER 2.0 TDi 102ps,** 12636 Miles	£14,295 +VAT
13/63	**FORD RANGER KING CAB 2.2 TDCi, 4WD**	£15495 NO VAT

Please contact Craig or Keith
T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett,
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB
1 Mile from Russells Hall
Hospital, towards Kingswinford

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
Motability Premier Dealer

VAUXHALL



It looks long and low but with sleek, aerodynamic lines

All guns blazing for Kia with Optima Sportswagen

By John Griffiths

Long gone are the days when estate cars were the rather boxy, boring preserve of travelling salesmen.

Now they have to be as stylish (and in some cases more so) than their saloon stablemates as not only business buyers but families with children or dogs seek the practicality of a big, easy to load luggage area.

Now Kia, with a keen eye on European markets, has joined the fray with what is, surprisingly, its first effort in the fiercely competitive D-segment estate market. There is a big advantage in coming late to the party – you can see what others are doing and do it better.

By coincidence or not, the Optima Sportswagon offers a little more luggage space than big-selling rivals such as the Vauxhall Insignia and Ford Mondeo, and comes exceptionally well kitted out at competitive prices. And, of course, there's that seven year warranty package.

Prices start at £22,295 (£1,100 more than the saloon) up to £30,595 for the flagship GT-Line with automatic transmission. The car tested was the mid-range '3' spec model at £24,495 on the road.

At first sight it looks long and low but with sleek, aerodynamic lines which convery a sporting



There's a comprehensive instrument panel

appearances. Appearances can be deceptive, as under the skin the Sportwagon can carry five passengers and 552 litres of luggage – rising to an impressive 1,686 litres with the rear seats folded down. If that's not enough you get roof rails too.

The rear seats split 40:20:40 so you can still carry two adults in the back while making space for longer items of luggage.

It is powered by a 1.7 litre turbo diesel with 139PS of power and a hefty 340Nm of torque at just 1,750rpm. That's enough for a sub ten seconds sprint time to 62mph, but that's not the whole story: the low down pulling power means smooth acceleration and refined cruising, with the engine barely breathing heavily on the motorway.

That's helped by the slick six-speed manual, with a top gear ratio pitched relatively high to aid economy and refinement at higher speeds.

It's official fuel average is 64.2mpg (I managed 51mpg on a series of relatively short A and B road trips) with a low CO2 rating of 113g/km.

Most of my trips were made in pretty awful weather conditions – which made me truly thankful for the sheer luxury of the Sportswagon's heated seats and steering wheel.

The seats in the '3' grade test car were large and comfortable, in a mix of black cloth and faux leather.

The driver has a comprehensive instrument panel in front of him, with the colour touch screen atop the centre console angled slightly towards him or her. It's only a few degrees, but it does make it easier to read and appears to cut reflections.

The screen displays the satnav, but also controls the smartphone connectively, Apple CarPlay, Bluetooth, DAB radio and audio and connected services such as traffic, speed camera and weather updates, Your music choice is played through a Harmen Kardon premium sound system.

Climate control, electric windows, cornering lights, electrically adjustable driver's seat and an automatic de-fogging systems are also standard.

The Kia's safety systems are comprehensive, starting with multiple airbags and including an array of the latest electronic systems including stability control and brake assist, hill start assist, blind spot detection, lane keeping assist, and rear crossing traffic alert.

The car was designed for Europe's roads and the preferences of European drivers, to give it a dynamic and slightly sporting character. The steering is quick and accurate which contributes to the agility of what is, after all, a fairly long car,

The Sportswagon has an upmarket feel, and the driving seat is a good place to be. The fixtures and fittings have a premium feel, and at under £25,000 the test model seemed a lot of car for your money.

OakGarage.co.uk

Oak Garage your local RAC Approved Dealer.



Our Low Mileage Selection

14	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon+ Turquoise Only 4000 Miles	£7,995
14	Hyundai IX20 1.6 Active Auto Silver Only 5000 Miles	£8,995
65	Smart Forfour 1.0 Passion 5dr Grey Only 6000 Miles	£6,995
14	Ford B-max 1.6 Zetec Powershift Silver Only 6000 Miles	£8,995
63	Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Blue Only 7000 Miles	£8,995
14	Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec Powershift Red Only 8000 Miles	£8,995
14	Peugeot 107 Hatchback 1.0 Active Red Only 8000 Miles	£5,295
15	Nissan Pulsar Diesel 1.5 dCi Acenta Red Only 8000 Miles	£10,995
14	Peugeot 208 1.2 VTi Active Silver Only 11000 Miles	£7,495
14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 CDTi Exclusiv Brown Only 11000 Miles	£7,995
14	Hyundai I20 Hatchback 1.2 Active Silver Only 12000 Miles	£6,995
12	Peugeot Partner Tepee 1.6 e-HDi 92 S EGC Blue Only 12000 Miles	£7,495
Citroen		
14	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 8V VTR+ Silver 26k	£7,495
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive Grey 20k	£10,795
14	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive+ Red 62k	£9,495
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Blue 69k	£7,495
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ Blue 25K	£9,495
57	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6HDi 16V Exclusive EGS Grey 84k	£3,795
06	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k	£10,995
57	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 62k	£7,995
57	Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Black	£7,995
13	Citroen DS3 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream DSport Plus 3dr Red 21K	£8,495
63	Citroen DS3 1.6 e-HDi Airdream DStyle Plus Black 40k	£7,995
14	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive ETG6 Blue 41k	£11,495
63	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi Exclusive+ Bronze 20k	£13,495
Ford		
63	Ford B-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Titanium Black 40k	£8,495
13	Ford C-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Zetec Black 23k	£8,495
11	Ford C-max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 57k	£6,495
14	Ford C-max Estate 1.6 TDCi Titanium Silver 22k	£9,995
64	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Navigator White 29k	£9,795
09	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec Silver 84k	£3,995
63	Ford Focus Diesel 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Black 32k	£8,995
04	Ford Fusion Estate 1.4 2 Silver 56k	£1,995
Nissan		
63	Nissan Juke 1.5 DCI Acenta Red 22k	£8,795
63	Nissan Juke Hatchback 1.6 Acenta White 23k	£9,295
64	Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Acenta 5dr Auto Red 25K	£8,495
14	Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Acenta Premium Auto Blue 19K	£8,995
15	Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Acenta Premium Auto Grey 14K	£9,995
14	Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium 5dr Blue 27k	£7,995
63	Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium 5dr Grey 31k	£7,995
58	Nissan Note Hatchback 1.6 Acenta Auto Silver 47k	£4,295
63	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] Acenta White 24k	£9,995
07	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Caffe Latte 84k	£4,695
Peugeot		
63	Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Brown 21k	£8,795
14	Peugeot 208 1.4 e-HDi Access+ 5dr EGC Red 16k	£7,995
14	Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi Active 5dr EGC Silver 31k	£8,995
14	Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 115 Active White 43k	£7,795
63	Peugeot 5008 1.6 HDi Active 5dr Blue 42k	£8,995
Renault		
14	Renault Captur 1.5 dCi 90 Dynamique S MediaNav Orange 29k	£9,995
14	Renault Clio 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S MediaNav Red 15k	£8,995
14	Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 90 Dynamique S MediaNav Energy Red 21k	£9,295
63	Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom Red 35K	£8,995
Vauxhall		
63	Vauxhall Antara Diesel 2.2 CDTi Diamond Auto Black 18k	£11,995
10	Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Exclusiv Auto Blue 68K	£4,995
14	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Elite Red 44k	£7,995
10	Vauxhall Astra Hatchback 1.6i 16V SRi Auto Blue 23K	£5,995
11	Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer 1.6i SE Auto Grey 26k	£6,995
58	Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi Auto With Access Ramp Silver 81k	£3,495
14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SRi 5dr [AC] Red 61K	£5,295
57	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Club Auto Green 71k	£3,295
63	Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback 1.4 SRi 3dr [AC] Red 14k	£6,995
63	Vauxhall Insignia Tourer 2.0 CDTi [163] Elite Nav Grey 24k	£11,495
15	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4T 16V Exclusiv Auto Brown 13k	£8,995
10	Vauxhall Meriva Estate 1.6i 16V Design Silver 51k	£3,795
11	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Elite [125] Grey 72k	£5,995
63	Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX Exclusiv Gold 42k	£9,695
15	Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv Black 13k	£10,995
Others		
10	Fiat 500 Hatchback 1.2 Lounge 3dr Blue 52k	£4,995
14	Fiat 500L Diesel 1.3 Multijet 85 Trekking Dualogic Yellow 28k	£8,495
60	Honda Accord 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4dr Auto Silver 36K	£8,995
60	Kia Rio 1.5 CRDi 2 5dr Silver 105K	£2,595
64	Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 2.0 CRDi KX-2 Blue 18K	£15,495
63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE DSG [Tech Pack] Silver 33k	£9,295
11	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i T Spirit Nav Silver 87k	£3,995
64	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GTD DSG White 25K	£17,995

Finance Arranged Within 60 Mins

From **4.99%**

Flat Rate / APR Variable

For A Quick Decision Call Us Now

01384 906030

Application Requirements

- Driving Licence
- Bank Details
- 2 Proofs Of Address
- Employers Details
- Self Employed Available
- Retired Facility Available
- Loans Subject To Status

RAC APPROVED DEALER



Another 100 Low Mileage Cars Available Soon See Details At:

www.oakgarage.co.uk

Unit 1 , Sterling Park, Brierley Hill DY5 1TB

Tel: 01384 906030

Opening Times: Mon-Thu: 9-6, Fri-Sat: 9-5, Sun: 11-4

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

J.R. JONES
Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST—Cat, male, ginger with white chest, from Ashley Street, Bilston, Saturday, April 15. Please contact 07800 931494.



MISSING MILLY SINCE 17/12/16
Five years old.
Carisbrooke Road WV10.
Black and white cat, four white paws, white chest and white bottom chin. Spayed, no collar and possibly no microchip.
07825 271562

1 Family

elderly & disabled

Capitol Mobility
Showroom in Bath St., Bilston
ARE YOU ON DLA OR PIP'S!
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!
OVER 25 YEARS SALES / SERVICING ALL MOBILITY EQUIPMENT
01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

bikes

RALEIGH SUPERB 1980's push bike, all extras, lights and 3 speed gears, £70. 01384 375875.

car boot sales

COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET
OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
at Himley Bypass, B4176
Ring Colin: 07973 904585
www.colscarboot.co.uk
@colscarboot
OPEN ALL YEAR

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSALE
Only £5 per Car/Van.
7AM START. Cocksparrow Lane, Cannock WS12 4PB
07890 267 041

IT'S BACK IT'S BACK
MIDLANDS BIGGEST CAR BOOT SALE
SELLERS TURN UP FROM 6AM
THIS SUNDAY AND EVERY SUNDAY
Now at Dark Lane, Featherstone WV10 7HT
Just off main A460.
1minute *from J11 M6*
1minute *J1 M54*
6 am-2 pm
All enquiries **Tel: 07831 192 116**
Or for more information visit www.gocarbootsales.com

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sundays from 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA. 07710 644908. www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

BEST WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461, Springhill, Muckely Corner Lichfield WS14 0BX
07890 267041

CARBOOT & MARKET
Every Sunday 6am - 2pm
Church Road, Willenhall WV13 2LD
Walsall Road, Perry Barr B42 1DG
07979 472 572

BIGGEST SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Catering positions available
A454 Rudge Heath between Wolverhampton and Bridgenorth
By Royal Oak pub island WV6 7EE
07890 267 041

caravans / motorhomes

ACE AIR 400 AWNING 2016 with fitted floor and roof liner, **£550 ono,** sale of caravan forces sale. **01922 416201.**

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

CITROEN ROMAHOME L Reg., diesel, MoT September 2017, serviced regularly, two new batteries, lots of past paperwork, immaculate new interior upholstery, lots of extras, very economical to run, ready to go, lady driver, sale due to ill health. Genuine callers only. **£4,800o.n.o. 01746 787680.**

ELDDIS EXPLORE 452 Special edition, 2-berth, 2010. £7,500. 01785 714660.

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183



PEUGEOT BOXER SYMBOL Autosleeper. 1999, 2L petrol. Two berth, new cambelt, 54,650 miles, MOT August 2017. Good clean condition. 01902 895025 £10,995 **07817034101**

SWIFT FAIRWAY 460 2 Berth
High spec, alloys, motormover, hitch lock stabilsers, tyron bands fitted, hitch lock, wheel clamp plus lots of extras, ready to go, non smokers or pets, plus 1 large and 1 small awning, free to purchaser.
Very good condition, any inspection, reason for sale, larger van purchased. **£2,500 ono. 07833 683370.**



TELFORD TWIN UNIT
On bus route near all facilities, Telford, Muxton Park Home. Fully furnished, own drive, 12 month residential site.
£77,000.
07774 715830.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED Can collect ASAP. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717 090817.

music shop

RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA wanted & sold 50s -90s+ record shop wolves wv1 3hl 07760168972

sports & leisure

EZGO TWO seat petrol golf buggy, £1,850. 07768 841443.

TREADMILL FOR SALE. Reebok GT40S treadmill, as new, £299 ono. 01902 843447.

holidays

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale on 5* park. Golf, fishing, bar & restaurant, pet friendly £24,995 inc. 2017 site fees www.pearllake.co.uk 01568 708 326

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Saundersfoot Bungalow
3 Bed, All En suite, Sleeps 8, Central heating, TV Video, Washing machine, Dishwasher, Microwave
Ring Brochure
0121 353 1575

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

massage

TRADITIONAL CHINESE Massage 'Hot Stones'. 01902 903659, 07741 696099. Compton WV6 8AF

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR Every month. Codsall Village Hall, Sunday 30th April 9am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178.

bouncy castles

BOUNCY CASTLE HIRE Jumpin-Jens.co.uk Professional inflatable hire, fully insured. 079700 24953

3 Home & Services

furniture

FOLD UP double bed with headboard, mattress, 4 pillows and duvet, £100 ono. 01902 652115.

in your garden

GREENHOUSES FROM £263.35
Pavilion Garden Centre WV6 7EZ
Tel: 01902 701001

BOSCH ELECTRIC corded lawn mower, as new, £50. 01902 652115.

LAWN TRACTOR 22hp, 42 inch cut with collector, totally new and unused. Cost £4,000. **Will accept £1,995.** Can deliver. **Telephone 07710 169150.**

PETROL LAWN push Mower, Cobra 16 DG350, never used, brand new, £100 ono. 07506 259082.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

PAPER and CARD
For all Ink Jet, Laser and Off-Set Machines
MERCIA PAPER LTD
Lower Walsall Street
W'ton, WV1 2ES
07934 044488

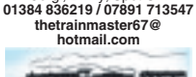
TWO TICKETS Evita, Grand, May 9, front row, cost £64 sell £50. Telephone 01902 338647.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

WANTED VINTAGE / COLLECTABLE TOYS
Star Wars / TV / Film Related/ Horror/ Memorabilia
Email or call
rewindcollectables@gmail.com
07969 050421.

A BEST CASH PRICE



FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219 / 07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com





A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED
SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC
ALSO
GARAGE CLEARANCES
old enamel signs, petrol cans, old jugs, classic car parts, bikes and motorbikes. Anything old.
** Top prices paid **
01384 836219 / 07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k +2 or 48k computer wanted, also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard CheckATrade.com

ALAN JONES
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST. THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping. Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

domestic cleaning

CLEAN (midlands ltd) FOR YOU
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

driveways/patio cleaning

LOW COST DRIVEWAYS AND POWER WASHING
NO CASH UPFRONT!
Old driveways restored or built from scratch
Driveways powerwashed, Block paving re sanded & sealed, exterior walls and all hard surface areas.
01902 824661or 07513 678259

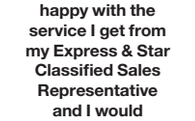
electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply only. Free quote: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU.01902 723910

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

1ST TREE AND TURF
All aspects of Landscaping,Tree Surgery, Block Paving, Fencing and Turfing.
Call Gary on: 01902 443069 or 07742 430513

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE,
FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664 /07969 687832

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

TIMBER GATES GARAGE DOORS AND FRAMES
Made and Fitted Any Sizes
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call John: 07958 576728 / 01902 861347

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing. Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

home improvements

Property repairs
all property repairs and improvements considered
Free quotes No job too small
M D Carver
07729191369

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

AJT CLEARANCES
FULL & PART HOUSE CLEARANCES
BEREAVEMENT SPECIALISTS
LICENSED WASTE CARRIERS
01384 732429 / 07752 175707

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience.City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07941 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

plumbing & heating

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us."
Martin - Centra Heat

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in May. T&C apply
01902 845211

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler & 6 rads £2200. 7 year warranty available 01902 790327/ 07973 721206. www.knashandsonheating.co.uk

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS
AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

A CHEAPER REMOVAL
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35
FREE QUOTES
Student/OAP Discounts

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

roofing

ROOFING
main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-9pm.
01902 722447.

25% OFF
SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

S T ROOFING All roofing work carried out. Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE
CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY A suite/ chair re-upholstered / repaired as new. Free Quotes: 01902 404698.

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign"

Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES, 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR GUNS, VINTAGE/ ANTIQUE GUNS, SHOT GUNS, TAXIDERMY- BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED. MATCH AIR RIFLES WANTED.
07968 624202

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

COCKERPOO PUPPIES, parents family pets, 1st vaccinations, vet checked, £800. 07790 660541.

KITTENS, eight weeks old, weaned and litter trained, £20 each. Telephone 07923 678885.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

UNITS TO LET Wolverhampton Would suit many uses. Call 07934 044488

plant, machinery & tools

R AND J SITE SERVICES LTD
Grab Hire, Plant Hire Groundwork and all types of aggregates. Anywhere in the Midlands.
Call 01384 211420 / 07793 079103
randjsiteservices@hotmail.com

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

A 1 BED FURNISHED FLAT Tettenhall area.CH. No DSS 07976 263435 / 01902 700 028.

WILLENHALL, luxury room, furnished, working person, £50p/w. Telephone 07401 089298.

mobile homes

STATIC CARAVAN
35 X 12, with large decking, 2 bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to coast, ground rent included for 2017.
£8,000.
07555 303350.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY
*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk
*T&C's apply



ClassifiedAds

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
For Your House CASH
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

Wolverhampton properties
CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO £25,000 We can buy your house in 2 days
CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

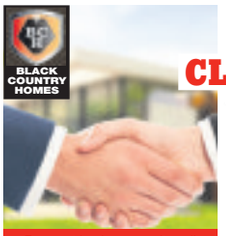
I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
GUARANTEED
Guaranteed offer* Any condition
Free solicitors No fees*
* Terms apply
24 hours Free phone or landline
0800 783 2822
01384 226086
Dewmark Homes

pink run by women
sell quick
No Fees* Any property Any condition Free confidential service
Any area* Repossessions stopped Deceased estates
Call free 24 hours 7 days to town
0800 044 8109 01922 689023

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
01384 930 979 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH
CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days
0800 246 1047
WE OFFER £20,000 CASH ADVANCE
NO Fees & FREE Solicitors We Buy Any Area & Any Condition
www.ukfastsale.co.uk



BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star



CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

TRUSTED. RELIABLE.
WE BUY HOUSES.
Contact Mary on
07767 135 043
01384 686 050
mary@sotaproperties.com

7 Jobs

full time - general

FULL TIME BENCH LOCKSMITH / KEYCUTTER/ENGRAVER required to run our shop based in **Kidderminster £17-£20,000** depending on experience
Training in all aspects of the job will be provided.
Job involves engraving, key cutting and shop sales, placing and chasing up orders with suppliers and dealing with customers on the telephone.
Opportunity for future development into locksmithing a possibility.
Private message for further information
Severn Valley Lock & Safe 9/10 Comberton Road DY10 1UA Kidderminster 01562 861771 karlnicholls@sky.com

KITCHEN FURNITURE MANUFACTURER
in the Dudley area requires:
CABINET ASSEMBLER
and
BEAM SAW OPERATOR
Must have experience in a panel producing environment (cutting, edging, drilling and assembly).
Good rate of pay for the right applicants.
Call 01384 567171.

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED Bricklayer seeks employment. 07341 021774.

motor trade

BODYKRAFT GROUP seek
EXPERIENCED PANEL BEATERS & STRIP & FIT TECHNICIANS
Preferably with ATA / NVQ3 accreditation
We offer above industry standard wage structure
Send your cv by email or post to :
Dawn Owen, Bodykraft Group, Building 28, First Avenue, Pensnett Trading Estate, Kingswinford, DY6 7UA Dawn.owen@bodykraft.co.uk

nursing & carers

PERSONAL ASSISTANT for P/T holiday / sickness relief to care for a lovely lady with learning disability. To provide assistance with domestic duties and recreational activities and general support for independent living. Lower Gornal area. £8 p.h day shift, sleep-over £28 per night. For details 01902 897617

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

Chartered Accountants in Dudley seeks
EXPERIENCED PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR
to manage their payroll bureau.
Good knowledge of payroll processes including RTI and auto enrolment essential.
Experience of SAGE an advantage.
Hours negotiable.
Competitive salary offered.
Please send your CV to dudley@wortonrock.co.uk

courses

How To Claim Your Free Driving Instructor Starter Pack Including Theory And Hazard Perception DVD For The ADI Part One Test
Call 01902 881444 OR Scan QR Code

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



CITRORN XSARA PICASSO Diesel 2008, 67,000 Miles, electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, central locking, pas, Alloys, CD
£2,299 ono
07879 403302

BARGAIN
FIAT PUNTO EVO SPORTING 135HP
2010, too many extras to list, top of the range, black with tinted windows, 77k, one owner, HPi clear.
£2,495 for quick sale.
Telephone 07515 532098.



FORD 2006 KA STYLE
Genuine 12,200 miles from new. Original owner.
Immaculate condition. FSH.
New service and MoT.
£1,695 ono.
Ideal 1st car.
07584 237858 or 0121 5508840.



FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 95
1400, 5Dr hatchback, grey metallic, 2010, MoT January 2018, fsh, excellent condition, one previous keeper, extras, alloys, CD, mats, etc.
£4,695 ono.
07739 267589.



FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE
5dr Hatchback, 2007, extras.
Air con, CD, alloys, mats, heated front screen,
84,849 miles, SH,
12 month MoT,
very good condition.
£1,595 ono.
07739 267589.



HYUNDAI COUPE 1.6 SIII S
2009, 3-door, long MoT, part service history. 112,000 miles. Leather trim, sports seats. Good condition.
£1,900,ono
Telephone 01902 833126 / 07738 512150.

4X4

KIA SORENTO

2004, 2.5 diesel, 4WD, MoT, Sat Nav, parking sensors, reversing camera, tow bar, full leather interior, good condition for year.

Reduced to £2,350 ono.

07773 354042 / 07703 548050.

4X4

LANDROVER DEFENDER 90

2.4 TDCi, 2008, hard top, 3-dr, manual, grey, alloy wheels, electric windows, tow bar, 2 owners from new, full main dealer service history, excellent condition.

£14,999.

07411 414284.



MERCEDES 2.0 SLK

2002, 69,150 miles, black, abs, electric windows, 12 months MoT, cruise control, AMG alloys, spots, leather interior, electric heated seats.

£2,850.

07707 529224.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE

54 reg, 74,000 miles, fsh, Obsidian black, with cream leather, keyless go, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, Sat Nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys. Absolutely pristine.

£9,999.

Telephone 07836 204450 or 07545 601552.



NISSAN MICRA 1.4 TEKNA

3-dr, 2009, 60,000 miles, 2 owners, FSH, 10 months MoT, alloys, aircon, auto climate control, radio CD, Bluetooth, aux in, immaculate condition.

£2,795

07506 019364.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

SUZUKI SX4 SZ3

2014, 7,500 Miles, red. 64 plate,1.6,petrol,full service history, genuine reason for sale.

£7,250

07760841872

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTi

2007, black, one owner, 12 months MoT, excellent condition.

£2,500

07913 981460.

cars under £1500



CITROEN C3 DESIRE

04 reg, 1.4, silver, five door, MoT, excellent condition, first to see will buy,

£495.

07791 113080.

DIESEL

CITROEN PICASSO

03 reg, blue. 63,000 miles. Drives well. Used daily. 12 months MoT.

£650

Telephone 07989 242850.



FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE

2007, 71,800 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, full MoT, new exhaust, lovely condition, ideal first car.

£1,450.

07375 697505.



FORD FIESTA

2005, 70,000 miles, silver, 3 door Style Climate, Cat D, 11 months MoT, been in the same family 10 years, very good condition. Cannock area.

£799 ono.

07971 034838.

LOOK

FORD STREET KA LUXURY CONVERTIBLE

Metallic blue, good condition, new tyres, exhaust and battery, only done about 30 miles since last MoT (four months left)

£950 ono.

07576 308558.

4X4

HONDA HRV 4 x 4

2001, MoT December, 81,000 miles, towbar plus extras, one owner from new.

£850.

SOLD.

BARGAIN

MERCEDES A140 CLASSIC

1400cc, 2002, 5-dr hatch, 64,000 miles, MoT Nov 2017, good car.

£595.

01902 338628.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

PEUGEOT 106 ECO INDPENDENCE

2000 reg.

89k, MoT end of July, very good condition and runner, burnt orange colour.

£250 ono.

Telephone 07947 518846.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 207

Automatic.

3 door, one lady owner, 54 reg, low mileage, leather seats.

Very good condition.

£1,200 ono.

Telephone 07740 739203.

MUST BE SEEN

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4

2004, silver, MOT August, good little runner, new battery.

£700 ono

07929 049322.



RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 16V

53 plate, 5 door, hatchback, petrol, black, 2 owners from new, MoT, only 44,000 miles, fsh, new tyres, very reliable, very good condition.

£799.

Telephone 07778 145597.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

2004, 104,000 Miles, silver, 2.0 litre, petrol. 12 months MOT. Serviced, Good condition.

£1,250 ono

07974691979



VAUXHALL CORSA

1.4 Petrol, 3-dr, 07 reg, 89,978 miles, 11 months MoT, half leather, air con, alloys, parking sensors. Very good condition.

£1,500.

07866 938458.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons

Lessons Starting FROM

5 Lessons £50

10 Lessons £89

Manual & Automatic

Free Unlimited Theory

07517 845477

www.driveallseasons.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

HONDA VFR 750

4x2x1 exhaust and silencer system. Complete centre stand for same bike. Set of mirrors for Honda CBR, as new. Honda 600 scooter top box, large.

01384 375875.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.**

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available **0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.**

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

spares/parts

THULE HIRE & SALES Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers. Best Prices. **Wolves Hire 01902 746723 WV6 0LE**

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

For Example: Citroen C1, C2, C3 Hyundai 110, Toyota Yaris Clios & Micras

Ring for quotes on others!

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob 01384 251328 07972 169554 anytime

vehicle recovery

DTB RECOVERY AND TRANSPORT

- **Breakdowns**
- **Vehicle Movement**
- **Auction Collection**
- **Fast Response**
- **Competitive Rates**

Call AJ on **07813 753554** (24/7) **0121 557 3360** abusiness1@hotmail.co.uk

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

JOHN EDWARD PADMORE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 54 Avenue Road Coseley Bilston WV14 9DJ, who died on 15/12/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 07/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: LN/3969464P/Padmore) T500342

HARRY DENNIS WOOTTON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Netherton Green Nursing Home Bowling Green Road Netherton Dudley West Midlands DY2 9LY previously of 55 Granville Drive Kingswinford West Midlands DY6 8LH, who died on 25/12/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 07/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WALDRONS SOLICITORS
Capstan House The Waterfront Merry Hill
West Midlands DY5 1XL T500271

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for a Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act)

Kuldip Khela of The Grange, 83 Grange Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 2AN has applied to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for a premises licence. The proposed licensable activities are as follows: Recorded music and sale of alcohol during open times, Sunday to Thursday – 12 noon till 23:00 and Friday to Saturday – 12 noon till 01:00.

The full application can be inspected by contacting the licencing section between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gove.uk.

Any representations by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing between: 05/04/2017 and 03/05/2017

To Strategic Directors Place, Licencing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UF

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.00

IRENE ADAMS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 8 The Croft Dudley West Midlands DY3 1LZ, who died on 09/01/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 07/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: SQU/3978494P/Adams) T500317

10 Personals

personal

PRACTISING CHRISTIAN GUY FROM DUDLEY

Now in semi retirement is seeking a special lady to fill that spare time, age is not important but has to be caring, compassionate and loving.

If you feel you are that person, why not drop me a line.

Box Number P20784 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTRACTIVE MALE 38

If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!

I enjoy cross country biking, bowling, cinema, pubs, meals out, walks, holidays etc new to Low Hill area and would like to meet a like minded lady aged 30 to 44 years for friendship hopefully leading to relationship.

Genuine replies only. Photo appreciated (returned).

Box Number P20783 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878



ClassifiedAds



FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

*Advertise any item ***FREE*** up to the value of ***£250,*** simply fill out the

ADVERT DETAILS - (ONE WORD PER BOX, 12 WORDS IN TOTAL)

ADVERT 1			
ADVERT 2			
ADVERT 3			

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

_____

_____

Postcode: _____ **Tel No:** _____

Please send to: ClassifiedAds, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Limited time only

Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

Buy Local, **Sell** Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Local Specialists



Blinds & Curtains

Blinds4Less
Choose From a fantastic range!
-Pleated -Venetians
-Romans -Curtains
-Verticals -Awnings
-Rollers -Shutters
"New range of chainless verticals and night and day rollers."
Give us a try before you buy!
Contact us on
01543 226104
07989 588728
Blinds4lessdirect.com

Carpet Cleaning

Clean Carpets Dudley
Carpets & Upholstery
Fresh, Hygienic & Dry in 1 Hour
SPRING OFFERS AVAILABLE
Call Steven on
01384 848496 or 07468 031133
www.clean-carpets-dudley.co.uk

Driveways & Patios

Cressage Paving
Specialists in:
Block Paving,Tarmacing, Landscaping, Gravelling, Patios, Forecourts, Fencing and Driveways
All Groundwork undertaken
FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION
Mini Digger & Driver available
01384 944032
Mob: 07879 073702
www.cressage-group.co.uk

Foot Health Practitioner

Feet First
Alison Berrill Dip CFHP, MPS Pract
Foot Health Practitioner
Mobile: 07467 448263
Email: alison.berrill@yahoo.co.uk
Member of the Accredited Register of Foot Health Practioners

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD
*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

Get Your Garden Ready For Spring
All aspects of garden workundertaken
• Full Landscaping
• Mowing/Trimming
• Weeding
• Tree Management
• Plus much much more
Telephone Giles for your FREE quote
07495 942082

GORNAL TREE & GARDEN SERVICES
• Conifers reduced & trimmed
• Crown reductions • Tree Felling
• Turfing • Fencing • Hedge Trimming
• Jungles & gardens cleared
• Fully Insured • NPTC Qualified
• Stump removals
Call for a FREE QUOTE
07860 851 017 or 01384 830 384

Roofing

My Roofer Ltd
My roofer should be your roofer
SPECIAL OFFER
Flat Rubber Roof for single car garage from £799
WE ALSO FIT FASCIA SOFFITS, GUTTERING AND NEW ROOFS FITTED AND GUARANTEED
Call FREE: 0800 292 7814
Office: 01922 897334 Direct Line: 07472 518018 Email: info@myrooferltd.co.uk
www.myrooferltd.co.uk
Unit 4 Martindale Industrial Estate, Hawkes Green, Cannock WS11 7XN

COTTERELLS ROOFING
SERVING THE BLACK COUNTRY FOR OVER 25 YEARS
24 HOUR EMERGENCY CALL OUT!
Guttering & Fascia Board Specialist
• Re-roofs - Slate or Tile
• Flat Roofs • Lead Work • Chimneys
Fully Insured - Free Quotes - All Work Guaranteed
Day: 07764 939002
Evening: 01384 459245
cotterellspm@gmail.com

Double Glazing

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
WITH A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE AND FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE
WE HAVE A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
01384 918383
Delph Glazed Units
Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
Visit our new website
www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 520599

Electricians

MB electric
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call :
01384 660398
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES
West Midlands
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping
Call now for a FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or
07539 887144

CW Electrical
Kingswinford Limited
Domestic
Industrial
Commercial
Fault Finding & Condition Reports
Rewires/Part Rewires
Additional Sockets
Shower Replacements
Intruder Alarms
Security Lights
Storage Heaters
Electric Cooker Repairs
Visit our website for more services
Over 16 Years Experience
01384 278471
www.cwelectricalkingswinford.com
INSTALLATIONS 7 DAYS A WEEK

Fencing

BRIERLEY HILL SHEDS
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy duty sheds/summerhouses
6x4 sheds prices from £255 | 8x6 summerhouses from £495
1" flooring,13mm t/g, no osb boards used All sizes available
Tanalised railway sleepers £17 each
Come and view before you buy
Unit 8 Dawley Brook Road
Kingswinford DY6 7BD
01384 400089

Oven Cleaning

PROVENCLEAN
Professional oven cleaning services
Reliable, local and independent business
Have your oven restored to near showroom condition at an affordable price
Call 01384 732132
E: info@provenclean.co.uk
W: www.provenclean.co.uk

Pest Control

Greenlab Pest Control Ltd
A Local Established Company
Wasps Ants
Fleas Bedbugs
Flies Rats/Mice
Free Quotations
B.P.C.A. Accredited
CEPA Certified
COVERING ALL AREAS OF DUDLEY & STOURBRIDGE
Tel: 01384 829115
Freephone - 0800 953 0093
Mobile: 07913 355290
www.greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk
Email: sales@greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk

Tree Services

UNI-FIX ROOFING
MASSIVE SALE NOW ON
Upvc, Fascias, Soffits and Guttering
from £650
All rubbish removed
No deposit
Payment on satisfaction
0800 9596111
Head Office 01384 466857

WOLVERHAMPTON TREE SERVICE
Trees felled, hedges trimmed, stumps removed, tree reports.
Fully insured.
Arboricultural Association & Council Approved.
01902 892652
www.wolvestrees.co.uk
E: treebloke@aol.com

Property Maintenance

DLH Property Maintenance
• Interior/Exterior Painting Decor
• Render/Repointing Brickwork
• GRP Flat Roof Fibre Glass Systems
• Jet Washing/Driveways/Patios, Re-Sanding/Sealing
• All General Property Maintenance Undertaken
FULLY Qualified
FULLY Insured
Direct Line:
07788 628517

Driveways

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac Drives • Paths • Patios Slabbing • Red Tarmac Car Parks
5 Year Guarantee On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

ACE PAVING SERVICES LTD
City and Guilds Streetworks Approved
• Tarmacing • Concrete Imprint • Block Paving and Patios
• Landscaping • Streetworks • Curb dropping • Turfing
• Fencing and Decking • Power Washing • 5 year guarantee
FREE estimate • 15 years experience • Fully insured • Resinbond Drives.
01384 847115 | 0121 7692193 | 07448031419
Web:wwwacepavingservicesltd.co.uk
Email:acepavingservices@outlook.com
Cradley Enterprise Centre, Maypole Fields, Halesowen B63 2QB

Gardening



• GRASS CUTTING
• FENCING
• JET WASHING
• HEDGE CUTTING
• GARDEN CLEARANCE
• GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS
• GRAVE TENDING SERVICE
• TURFING AND LAWNS
FREE QUOTES
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL
ALLMARK LANDSCAPING & GARDENING SERVICES
CALL DARREN: 07963 142 736

Roofing

ROOFING SERVICES
One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big
WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
• Gutters Cleaned From £15
• Small Repairs From £15
• Pointing Work From £15
SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting
FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE
Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

Loft Ladders

The Loft Ladder Man
Loft Ladders fitted from £120 inclusive
New or enlarged hatches
T & G Flooring, Lighting
Call Luke on
07779 118807 or
01384 833025
lukejs248@gmail.com
like our brand new facebook page @ theloftladderman
We will beat any like for like quote
Fully Insured

To advertise your business and reach more than 53,000 potential customers...
1 Call us on... 01384 399903
2 E-mail us at... martin.cartwright@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Martin Cartwright , Dudley Chronicle, 3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Ricky training with a WBA champion

RICKY SUMMERS has been taking his preparations for a shot at the British light heavyweight title to world level. It has been confirmed that his rescheduled shot at title holder Frank Buglioni will take place on Saturday June 3.

It will again be at the 02 Arena in London where Summers, from Tipton, and Buglioni were first due to meet on the under-card to the clash between David Haye and Tony Bellew.

The titlist withdrew from that March 4 date after sustaining a cut in training, but Matchroom Boxing promoter Eddie Hearn has stayed true to his word that the contest will still take place.

Summers has shared a training ring with Nathan Cleverly, the Welshman who is the reigning WBA title holder and two-time world champion in the light heavyweight division.

Summers has also put another world ruler, Carl Froch, through his paces in the past as he works up towards his own night of reckoning,

He said: "Training with Nathan is ideal for me, because Frank is big at the weight although I think I'll be the naturally bigger man on the night."

"I'm just over the moon to have a second chance."

Neal's frustration over bar on race

STOURBRIDGE'S Matt Neal has criticised the decision to bar him starting the final race of the second weekend of the British Touring Car Championship.

Three-time champion Neal is already 42 points adrift of leader Tom Ingram in the standings after a promising start to his Donington Park weekend petered out.

After qualifying fifth, Neal took second in the first race and seventh in the second before a premature end to the third.

Having taken the lead at the first start, Neal aquaplaned off the circuit.

He was pushed out of the gravel by the marshals and took up his front-row position for the restart, only to be told he couldn't race after receiving 'outside assistance'.

But Neal said: "If the race stops before the leader has done two laps it's declared a no contest and all available cars can restart the race.

It's something we've got to take up now."

Davies is keeping true to his weight

TIVIDALE'S Ryan Davies plans to remain at welterweight as he makes the transition from kickboxer to paid pugilist. The 24-year-old is preparing to become a pro with a four-round bow against Matthew Ashmole in Birmingham tomorrow.

He features on Errol Johnson's BCB Promotions bill at the Icknield Road fight scene, in the Edgbaston area of the Second City. The show has been titled Heavy Artillery. Davies comes into the code under the tutelage of another former kickboxer, Tyler Shakespeare, who has also brought Kyle Williams across the sports.

And Davies said: "It's a new challenge, but guts is my game and I want that title. I live the gym and I'm always on it, getting as fit as I can be. You can outwork an opponent in any sport and I don't think many opponents will be able to match me for my engine and desire. I'm training harder now than I ever have in kickboxing, because I want to do as well as I possibly can in boxing. My ambitions are high, but so is my dedication."

The main event of 'Heavy Artillery' will see Wolverhampton's Josh Burke and Coventry's Dilly Singh contest the vacant British Challenge cruiserweight title over eight rounds.



Hands on – all hands to the deck as helpers turn out to get things ready



Cannock Cricket Club getting ready for the new season

Howzat? Club building for brighter future

ATTENTION may have been centred on the start of summer action but Cannock Cricket Club are on the front foot with off-field matters.

While the first team have started their Staffs Clubs Premier Division challenge club members are looking to make major improvements to their Church Lane base.

A planning application has been submitted to build a new clubhouse separate from the main Chase Park site – which houses Cannock Hockey Club as well.

Members hope an extension will be built adjacent to the current changing rooms with volunteers having already spent more than 300 hours doing preparation work to get the area up to scratch.

Income

Club chairman David Robinson believes, if approved, the new pavilion will prove a big boost to the club's finances.

"This pavilion will help us stand alone and will hopefully help our fundraising," Robinson said. "Like with most sports, we are very much hand-to-mouth.

"We need to do what we can to generate income and we believe this new clubhouse will do that. As well as it being a place for supporters, we want to be able to rent it out for events like anniversaries and parties.

"We are looking to generate our own revenue steams and improve the facilities for everyone connected with the club."

Robinson hopes the work will be completed by the end of the year.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joseph Masi

"Club members have put in loads of hours across the winter to do as much as they can," he continued. "It's between 300 and 400 hours of work that's gone it to getting the changing rooms ready.

"What will be the new pavilion is a 1980s building and it needs bringing up to the right specifications.

"We have got rid of a lot of stuff and done as much work as we can in the existing building which we hope will become the new changing rooms and kitchen area.

"The new pavilion extension will then be attached. Of course, work has now come to a standstill as we go through the planning process.

"But fingers crossed we will get the green light as it will make a huge difference."

Fundraising

Robinson says he expected the majority of the work to be paid for by members holding fundraising events. But the club is also looking into other revenue streams.

"We are always on the lookout for ways to generate money for the club," he added.

"We'll be putting on fundraising events and we're confident members will be able to raise the money we need. We will also look at seeing if we can apply for funds from relevant sporting bodies."

Final whistle



THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY

TO ADVERTISE IN FINAL WHISTLE CALL OUR EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 31 31 31

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Sport

How's that on building for better cricket club future?



Page 47

It's marathon effort for club road runners

ALL roads led to London at the weekend for arguably the biggest and certainly the most publicised races of the year as athletes travelled south to the capital to take part in the London Marathon.

Whilst many club members were glued to their televisions hoping to catch a glimpse of the blue hoops, the hoops themselves were slogging themselves around the streets on a day that turned surprisingly warm, great weather for spectators but not so for those competing.

Those hoping the streets of London were paved with gold may have been a little disappointed as they appeared to be littered with bottles of water and Lucozade Sport but a large group still returned to the Midlands with their own little piece of gold around their necks.

It was a nip and tuck battle to be first from DK to cross the line with the first three from the club coming home within seconds of each other, James Wright claimed the honour finishing in 3.00.16 in 1951st, Darran Bishop was 1995th in 3.00.39 and Kevin Duckworth finished in 3.01.00 in 2044th.

Matt Biggs was going well until halfway but nursed himself home with an injury in 3.09.00. Helen Tromans was first lady home for the hoops and 176th in her gender and an impressive 14th in her age group finishing in 3.10.11.

Mark Judge recorded a new PB in 3.11.29, Lorna Hulme finished in 3.17.35 despite having doubts about even reaching the start line earlier in the week and Tahir Yasin finished in 3.54.48.

David Fennell came home in 4.22.23, Aimee Pugh finished in 4.46.17, Carol Fisher in 4.47.08, Jan Burbie in 4.48.19 and Nigel Warrington in 4.49.47. Lisa Perkins finished in 5.31.33 and Deb Rochelle stopped the clock in 6.12.52.

Double header as Heathens look to make comeback

CRADLEY are part of a Bank Holiday double header when they race at Wolverhampton on Monday.

The Heathens face league newcomers Lakeside Hammers, managed by former England skipper Kelvin Tatum, looking to hit back from their defeat against Mildenhall.

It will take place immediately after Wolverhampton's SGB Premiership encounter with King's Lynn, which gets underway at 6pm.

Admission for both meetings is available for the standard Wolves admission price, whilst Cradley season ticket holders can pay a £5 supplement to allow them to watch both meetings.

A turnstile for those wanting just to watch the Heathens' meeting will be open from approximately 7.15pm.

The Heathens will also be producing their own programme containing race cards for both meetings.

Cradley boss Will Pottinger is keen to see his side bounce back from the defeat against Mildenhall. They head to Eastbourne on Saturday before returning to Monmore on Monday.

Final win puts DK fourth in league

DK 34 Sutton Coldfield 13

Rugby

A BRIGHT sunny breezy day saw DK finish their league season in fourth place with a 34-13 win over Sutton Coldfield that saw the men from Heathbrook finish fourth in the league.

Though, the opening quarter of the game, did not go to plan for DK, behind after four minutes to a Laurie Harries penalty. Danny Hawkins yellow carded. Tommy Huggins missing a penalty opportunity.

Then DK kicked to the corner following another penalty, from the ensuing line out a Sutton Forward was yellow carded, same again from DK, but good defence from the Sutton seven saw them halt the DK drive and have the put in at the resulting scrummage. To make things worse for DK, the resulting clearance saw Miles Gregory take advantage of the situation and cross the line for Sutton; a Harries conversion pushed Sutton into a 10-0 lead.

DK were by no means out of the game and had been playing some good rugby during this period of the game. They struck back with one of their best tries of the season, which truly reflected the way that the team is trying to impose themselves on their opposition. Pete Griffiths made a good break in the middle of the field getting through the initial defensive line, causing the Sutton defence to concentrate on the danger, but the ensuing ruck was dominated by the DK forwards, who won quick ball; Connah Jones fed Tommy Huggins who had spotted a 3 on 2 to his right. Then, two draw and gives by Stef Shillingford and Nic Adams, released Tommy Walker to race in at the corner. Then a cracking kick from Tommy Huggins, made the score 10-7.

DK then started to take control of the game.The scoring was finished off by Nic Adams.

GLASSBOYS IN PLAY-OFF FINAL

Stourbridge 3
Workington 2 (aet)

JORDAN Archer struck an extra-time winner to edge Stourbridge a step closer to promotion from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier.

Visitors Workington twice came from behind to force this scintillating play-off semi-final to an extra 30 minutes before the Glassboys bagged their dramatic winner. They now face either Nantwich Town or Spennymoor Town in the play-off final on Saturday with a place in the Vanarama National League North at stake.

Drama

There was no indication of the drama that was to follow as the sides struggled to create anything of note and Stourbridge's 33rd-minute opener came out of the blue, Tom Tonks' free-kick into the area finding veteran Stuart Pierpoint who powered a header beyond keeper Aaran Taylor.

The home side went close again early in the second half when Benbow turned and fired goalwards but keeper Taylor blocked it.

Moments later it was Stourbridge keeper Matt Gould who was in the thick of things as he pulled off a brilliant one-handed save to keep out David Symington's strike. Scott Allison pounced to turn in the rebound but the effort was offside.

Symington hauled the visitors level on 69 minutes with a sweetly-struck free-kick. But Stourbridge rallied and regained the lead on 75 minutes when Benbow held off his marker before curling a shot in from just outside the area.

Then, three minutes into injury-time, a corner was lofted in and defender Dan Wordsworth rose to head into the roof of the net forcing extra-time.

The Glassboys took the lead for a third time on 97 minutes. Good work from Tonks saw him steer the ball to Archer and he cleverly turned his marker before firing the ball in.

The Cumbrian side pressed for an equaliser but were kept at bay by some excellent defending and the safe hands of Gould.



Stourbridge striker Luke Benbow goes for goal in the extra-time win over Workington

Sun shines on sprint finish for triathletes

THE sun shone on Wombourne on Sunday for the Black Country Triathletes first sprint triathlon of the season which saw more than 250 athletes take on the 400m swim, 20km bike and 5k run.

Although those that had an early start had a bit of a cold transition from the pool to the bike, after cycling up to Six Ashes from Ounsdale Leisure Centre, they were well warmed up and there were lots of personal bests and fast finishes.

Overall 1st Male was Aaron Crinnian in 00:57:11 and 1st Female Lauren Evans in 01:04:34, from BCT. This year also saw the new King of the Mountain Category sponsored by Midland Investment Agency which was won by Ben Monkton from BCT and Kate Miller from Warley Wasps.

Black Country Triathlon athletes also took a number of the age group category prizes. Ben Monkton was 2nd in 00:57:45 and Dave Nash 3rd in 00:59:19.

Yeltz fail to secure win in last match

Halesowen Town 1 Rushall Olympic 2

RUSHALL recorded their first win in 10 games with just local pride at stake in the final game of the season.

The Yeltz started in enterprising mode with early snapshots from former Pics' man Mo Diop and Ben Clarke. But the visitors broke up field from Danny Bragoli's free-kick to snatch a 15th minute lead when lively Stan Mugisha shrugged off his last marker to slot past goalkeeper Dan Platt. The visitors – with six ex-Yeltz players in their squad – went close again when Lewis Probert crashed a 17th minute shot into the side-netting.

Halesowen responded as both Nathan Walker and Lee Chilton struck free-kicks just wide.

The Pics then squandered a 40th minute chance to double their lead when former Yeltz midfielder Aaron Forde squared the ball for Mickael Partodikomo to balloon over the bar from just six yards out after Partodikomo had originally started the counter-attack.

Halesowen's Andre Johnson punished the Pics profligacy by levelling in the final minute of the first half with a fine finish past goalkeeper Jose Veiga to claim Halesowen's first goal in six outings.The Pics soon regained their lead with a 69th minute winner after Partodikomo laid the ball off for Bannister to drill home from the edge of the area.

Halesowen Town 0 Nantwich Town 0

Fifth place Nantwich booked their play off place but couldn't break the stalemate at the Grove last Thursday night. The visitors dominated play and threatened through captain Sam Hall.

The shot-shy Yeltz haven't scored for five games and hardly troubled the visitors.

Steve Jones finally found space in the home area in the 75th minute but Platt made a fine save and a minute later Rob Taylor cleared off the line.

Jones out at 'Pool after just 17 games

FORMER Wolves boss Dave Jones has left his role as League Two Hartlepool manager by mutual consent.

They are on the verge of dropping out of the Football League for the first time since 1921 as they sit two points off safety with two games to play. Defender Matthew Bates takes over from Jones.

Saturday's 2-0 loss to Barnet was the final straw and led to club president Jeff Stelling resigning after an extraordinary rant on Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday in which he blasted Bridgnorth-based Jones: "For God's sake for the good of the club walk now. Go now. You've got 13 points from 51."

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, April 27, 2017

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 71%


SEE OUR SPRING OFFERS ON PAGE 12
Wombourne Windows™
ORANGERIES AND CONSERVATORIES
KEEPING YOUR HOME AUTHENTIC,
SAFE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT THIS SPRING
www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL Telephone:01902 897000 Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-2pm